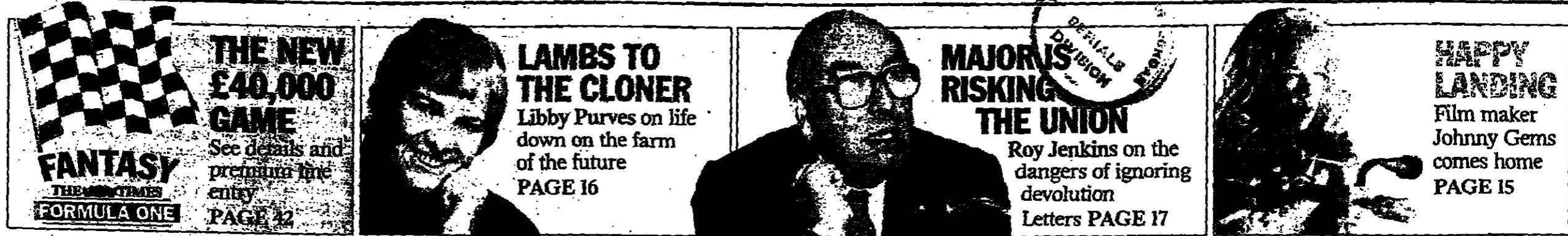


No. 65,822

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 25 1997



SIMON WALKER

Tory pledge on subsidies

Tube sell-off to raise £2bn for overhaul

BY JONATHAN PRYNN AND PHILIP WEBSTER

THE London Underground is to be sold for £2 billion and the proceeds ploughed back into building a modern network fit for the 21st century, Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, will announce today.

Sir George has won key concessions from the Treasury that will allow proceeds from the privatisation to be "ring-fenced". Whoever buys the network will be "drip-fed" the sale proceeds through an annual subsidy that will have to be spent on upgrading the 255-mile system.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, has conceded that privatisation is politically acceptable only with guarantees of investment and Sir George is said to have argued strongly for a "network for the millennium".

The sale of the Tube will be the main privatisation measure in the Tories' proposed fifth term programme. Ministers have gone cool on an outright sale of the Royal Mail, preferring instead to opt for increased "commercialisation" within the Post Office, and they have dropped a plan to privatise Channel 4.

The Government believes that the improving public image of rail privatisation has given it a window of opportunity to launch the Tube sale before the election, and today's announcement - which had been postponed three times - coincides with the sale of the final former British Rail franchise, ScotRail, to the National Express bus group in Glasgow.

Three main options will be outlined in the White Paper published by Sir George today: a "lock stock and barrel" sale of the network, a line-by-line sale, and the creation of a Railtrack-style

infrastructure authority with individual lines franchised to private operators.

Sir George is believed to favour selling a 10 or 20-year franchise for the entire network, with the Government retaining ultimate strategic control. There would also be an industry regulator to ensure that services were maintained and investment made, and a cap on fare increases.

Labour, which favours private investment in the Tube while retaining overall strategic control, said last night that the Conservative plans would "sell public assets cheap and delay investment further".

Labour spokesmen claimed that the scheme would cost thousands of votes in key Tory marginals and Glenda Jackson, the party's London Transport spokeswoman, intends to launch a campaign aimed at ten specific seats, including Enfield, Southgate, which is held by Michael Portillo, and Steven, North's Epping Forest.

"Privatisation could cost the Tories ten seats, it could cost them five seats. Either way our message to them is go ahead, make our day," Ms Jackson said.

Andrew Smith, the Shadow Transport Secretary, said that the Tories thought that through privatisation, they could "wash their hands of the mess in which they have left London's transport system. The nightmare vision of a Tory fifth term threatens Tube services and fares for millions of Londoners, bringing more transport chaos to the capital." Ministers have been stung by the sustained criticism from London's business leaders about its underfunding of the Tube and are convinced that only the private

"radical" programme, page 8

sector can deliver the modern, reliable network that the capital requires.

In a letter to the Prime Minister leaked earlier this month, Sir George said that privatisation proceeds would be in the range of £1.2 billion to £2 billion, and advisers believe that the top end of the range is achievable. Sir George admitted, however, that after subsidy, the net proceeds to the Exchequer could be as low as £600 million, compared with the Tube's net assets of around £7 billion.

The finances of the London Underground, whose annual revenue is nearly £800 million, have steadily improved during the 1990s and last year it made an operating profit of £197 million. However, it needs about £400 to £500 million a year in government support to maintain the system and begin to clear the backlog of modernisation and repairs. In last year's Budget its funding was reduced by £700 million over the next three years, forcing the postponement of more than 200 projects.

The decision on the Tube privatisation came as John Major called senior ministers together to "polish" the general election manifesto.

Strategists have now pencilled in March 13 as the day that Mr Major will formally announce that polling day will be May 1. He would be expected to inform the Queen of his plans after a Cabinet meeting that morning and to use the Conservative central council meeting in Bath on the following two days as his election springboard. Parliament would be dissolved either just before or after Easter to allow for remaining legislation to be rushed through.



An outfit from the Owen Gaster collection being shown during the London Fashion Week yesterday. Elsewhere top-name models were wearing the knitted designs of Laney Keogh. Page 5

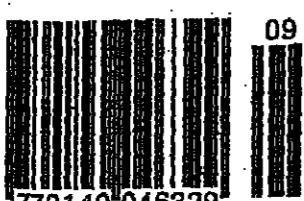
Halifax votes for a bank

The vote to convert Halifax Building Society into a bank was carried by an overwhelming majority of its members. From a total of seven million eligible investing members 5.1 million were in favour and 10,000 against. Of 2.2 million borrowing members, 1.5 million voted in favour and 40,000 against. The average share payout will be about £1,300. Page 25

Police admission
The chief constable of the West Midlands Police admitted that at the time the Bridgewater Three were arrested it was normal for officers to interrogate suspects before they looked for evidence. Asked if interrogations had got "rough", he said: "Of course." Page 2

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Three killed on motorway as hurricane threatens

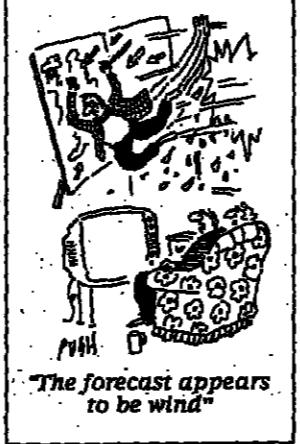
By LIN JENKINS

THREE people died in a motorway crash as Britain braced itself for the worst gales of the winter last night. Weathermen were forecasting hurricane-force winds in some parts of the south.

The M5 at Bristol was closed in both directions after a water tanker collided with a car, catapulting it into a van causing both to explode in flames. Avon fire service said driving conditions were atrocious.

Two people in the car and the driver of the van died. The tanker driver was last night being treated in hospital.

The Meteorological Office said the gales were the most sustained period of strong winds since the winter of 1990 which led to the greatest payout by insurance companies for storm damage - eclipsing, even, claims for the



The forecast appears to be wind

great storm of 1987. The high winds are likely to last until the weekend.

Winds up to 80 mph were forecast for southern counties.

A spokesman said: "It's all

ways difficult to say how

much damage will be done but

building damage might not be

quite as bad as in 1990."

A spokesman for the Association of British Insurers said it was prepared for the worst, but added: "The Met Office has been wrong before and we hope they're wrong on this occasion."

There were flood warnings in the south west from Land's End eastwards. Coastal communities were told there was the possibility of tides breaching sea defences during the night.

The Environment Agency issued red warnings for Minehead, Weston-super-Mare and Clevedon in Somerset and "amber" warnings of waves breaking over sea walls and beaches for north Cornwall, north Devon and the Cheshire Bank area in south Dorset.

Princess sues over dress profit report

By ALAN HAMILTON

LAWYERS acting for Diana, Princess of Wales, last night issued a libel writ against a Sunday newspaper over allegations that she would personally profit from the unending auction of nearly 100 of her evening dresses.

The step is unprecedented for the Princess. She has never sued for libel, although in 1993 she sued for breach of confidence over secretly-taken photographs of herself in a London gym, and last year brought an action for harassment against a freelance photographer.

If the libel action came to court it could involve her appearing in the witness box.

Libel cases are rarely brought by the Royal Family, for very reason. The last by a senior royal was in 1910, when the future King George V brought a successful criminal libel action against a

journalist who published a story alleging that the then Prince of Wales had secretly married in Malta, inferring that he had committed bigamy with Princess May of Teck, the future Queen Mary. In 1990 Viscount Linley won £35,000 damages from *Today* after it alleged he had been banned from a Chelsea pub for throwing beer over other drinkers.

Anthony Julius, the Princess's solicitor, said last night that she was suing Express Newspapers and Richard Addis, Editor of the *Express On Sunday*, over a front-page story at the weekend suggesting that up to half the proceeds from the June sale, which could make up to £4 million, would go to the Princess and only half to charity.

Yesterday the Princess's office strenuously denied the

story.

Continued on page 2, col 5



School Fees and Further Education Costs



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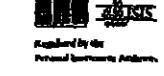
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Spies who go into the red lose security clearance

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

SOME of Britain's spies have had their security clearance withdrawn because they have gone chronically into the red.

The parliamentary Intelligence and Security Committee, chaired by Tom King, the former Defence Secretary, yesterday issued a warning about the dangers of spies in financial trouble.

The committee's annual report said they could be targeted by Russian agents bearing cash.

The committee which provides parliamentary oversight of MI5, the Secret Intelligence Service; MI6, the Security Service; and GCHQ, the government communications headquarters in Cheltenham, said Britain was under a continuing threat from the activities of Russian intelligence services. "This threat exists in a

climate where personal, financial or career problems can easily develop into security problems if not recognised and addressed at an early stage," the report said.

The heads of the three agencies, Sir David Spedding, Chief of MI5; Stephen Lander, Director-General of MI6; and David Onn, Director of GCHQ, had each told the committee that "financial problems or chronic indebtedness" had been the main

reason behind the withdrawal of vetting clearance "from contractors and, in some cases, serving members of staff".

The committee said: "Spies that individuals are greatly overspending their income, without any visible external means, should be of similar concern."

The committee added that it was "money, rather than ideology" that

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Send in the clones for a Stepford Parliament

A TORY whip walked in during Questions yesterday and stared for a moment at the loyal Jacques Arnold (C, Gravesend), who talks like a speak-your-weight machine. There was something chilling in the stare. Might the Whips' Office be contemplating cloning? 650 identically loyal Tory candidates with gravely voices for the election? It should be possible; the biological make-up of an obedient Tory is less complex than that of a sheep.

But as I watched Michael Heseltine on one of his good-hair days, better plan occurred. The Deputy Prime Minister on hand for Questions had swept back his mane in an ash-blond helmet. Were a bus ever to run him down, it

would be a tragedy to consign to the coffin a hairdo upon which so much has been lavished. Why waste it?

Cornneas, removed from the eyes of the late Deng Xiaoping, are to be given to medical science for transplant. Might Hezza donate his scalp to medical science, for use on thinning Tony Blair?

Hezza was tackled noisily, yesterday, by Labour's Deputy Leader, John Prescott. What a mouth will be lost to us when Mr Prescott departs this life! Could Prezza's mouth not be preserved, for use by a successor politician less orally endowed?

Plus Tony Banks's tongue. A thinking man's barrow boy, the sharp-tongued Labour MP, for

Newham NW was on his feet to accuse the Tories of accepting stolen money from Asil Nadir. The Conservative party was "funded by foreign crooks and foreign fascists", he rapped. Dennis Skinner (Lab, Balsall) growled angrily away ("You can have these sort of fancy Tory gimmicks") Skinner's spleen must be tacked on to our identikit MP, modesty forbids us to propose: here (what with Steven Norris) we shall be spoilt for choice.

at the courteous and likeable Liam Fox, Jessell's lungs driven by Skinner's spleen. Banks's tongue in Prescott's mouth armed with Tony Blair's teeth framed by Michael Portillo's lips and maned with Heseltine's hair ... the combination would be awesome: we are looking at a truly spectacular politician. Which bit of Paddy Ashdown might be tacked on to our

Tony Banks was back on his feet with a complaint for Michael Alison, answering for the Church Commissioners. Why was the Anglican Church driving away traditionalist Christians with its "happy-clappy" forms of worship, he asked? "They go for the hand of God to be laid upon them from above, not to be felt up by someone in the adjacent pew."

Then a miracle occurred. The mournful Mr Alison made a joke. He accused his tormentor, Banks, of being unfit ("alright") to lead a traditionalist service for Banks was "shouty-loupy," rather than "happy-clappy".

Up rose a quivering Sir Patrick Cormack (C, Staffs S) — huffy-puffy

and hoity-toity — to reprove the saintly Mr Alison, more hoity-toity than hoity-toity and for whom the term "rumpy-pumpy" was never less apt.

Art-farty Michael Fabricant (C, Mid-Staffs) wanted Mr Alison to know that at Lichfield Cathedral he had attended a service for girl guides. The MP spoilt our reveries of him in blue skirt and cap by adding, hastily, that he had not attended as a girl guide.

And the House moved to debate in Opposition time, the Health Service crisis. Crisis? By 5.30, Government incompetence meant some cattle remains would have to be stored until 2010 unless the process was accelerated.

John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, called for a public inquiry into the disposal programme. He unveiled a map of Britain showing the sites where remains are being stored and where carcasses could be rendered if further contracts were signed. Every community would be affected by "the legacy of this incompetence and mismanagement".

Disposal of BSE cattle 'will take 13 years'

The disposal of more than a million cattle slaughtered because of BSE will take another 13 years under current arrangements. Labour said yesterday. Government incompetence meant some cattle remains would have to be stored until 2010 unless the process was accelerated.

John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, called for a public inquiry into the disposal programme. He unveiled a map of Britain showing the sites where remains are being stored and where carcasses could be rendered if further contracts were signed. Every community would be affected by "the legacy of this incompetence and mismanagement".

Millennium man

Eric Sorensen, the head of the London Docklands Development Corporation, is to be the new chief executive of the Millennium Commission. He will take over next month from Jennifer Page, who left last month to oversee the Millennium Exhibition at Greenwich.

Betts case rerun

A teenager has gone on trial for the second time accused of being involved in supplying Ecstasy to Leah Betts, who died at her 18th birthday party. Steven Packman, 19, of London, Essex, was the first link in the supply chain. Norwich Crown Court was told. He denies the charge.

Welcome return

Victor Read, 32, from Cornwall, the scientist kidnapped in Ecuador's rainforest, yesterday ate his first hearty meal after a week of eating fried ants and manioc, and is resting on a comfortable bed after nights on mats in a bamboo hut, a British Embassy official said.

Food poison clue

A private water supply contaminated with animal waste is being investigated as a source of an *E. coli* food poisoning outbreak in the Scottish Borders. Two more people have the infection taking the total to six. They were among guests at a Burns Supper at Roberton village hall.

Miner trapped

A miner was trapped last night after a rock fall 1½ miles inside a drift mine. Four colleagues were rescued and taken to hospital after the accident at the Castle mine, near Blyth, Northumberland. The Mines Rescue Service was working to free the miner.

Steele chassis

Tommy Steele's black 1955 Morris Minor convertible with 45,000 miles on the clock was sold for £4,140 in a Brooks car auction at Olympia, west London. The car had had three owners from 1959. A 1959 Ferrari Super America was sold for £96,100 to an American.

Hawaii alive-o

The American police series *Hawaii Five-O*, last screened in Britain in 1991, is to be revived. Jack Lord, who played the detective Steve McGarrett in the original series and now lives in reclusive in Hawaii, is believed to have offered a cameo role in the new series.

Bridgewater focus turns to police

Police ethics were unknown in 70s, says police chief

By CAROL MIDDLETON

THE Chief Constable of the West Midlands force admitted yesterday that at the time the Bridgewater Three were arrested it was normal for officers to interrogate suspects before they looked for evidence.

Edward Crew said: "Back in the 1970s we would arrest somebody, we would interrogate them, and then we might bother to look for other evidence if they didn't admit it."

Mr Crew, who was at the time serving as an officer in the Metropolitan Force, was asked if the interrogations could ever get "rough". He replied: "Of course they

could." He went on: "Even in those days there was never, ever an expectation that police officers would break the law — the substantial change has come about in the culture in which we work."

He said that as an officer working then he could not recall "words like ethics and ethical behaviour" being used in the police. "They weren't actually important to us. We can't go on like that and quite simply we have moved away from that, from those sorts of ways of doing business."

"I have to say that if the penalty we pay is that guilty people walk away and don't

get convicted, and I suspect there are many of those, that is a price worth paying. There is never any circumstances, and I have never believed there have been, in which one can justify locking up an innocent person."

Mr Crew said that although the new safeguards against miscarriages of justice made it far harder for people to be wrongly convicted he could not ensure that it would not happen again.

He said he was sure that the vast majority of his officers were "honourable people" but said that if any of his officers had committed a criminal offence during the Carl Bridgewater case they would be brought before the courts.

"We have a justice system and it applies to everybody the same. I would simply give you a guarantee that where there is evidence of a police officer's misbehaviour to a criminal level it will be pursued and people will be put before the courts. I guarantee that there will be no whitewash."

He gave warning that any criminal behaviour by police officers or civilian support staff "is wholly unacceptable and will never be tolerated", adding that "the end can never justify the means". Mr Crew said he did not wish to say anything "which might affect the likelihood of those who are responsible for misbehaving in this case being brought before the courts if there is evidence against them".

Michael Hickey, Vincent Hickey and James Robinson were released on bail on Friday pending a full appeal hearing on April 8, after the High Court heard that evidence used during the 1979 murder trial had been fabricated by police officers.

Leake or others. In the statement he said: "We wish to make it plain both on behalf of Mr Leake and other officers whom we represent that our clients deny any improper practice in relation to the investigation of the murder of Carl Bridgewater."

He added: "The decision of the Crown not to oppose the current appeal by the convicted men appears to have been triggered by the reported results of a forensic examination of the written confession of Patrick Molloy, which are said to support an allegation that this confession was induced by the use of a forged document of admission by Vincent Hickey."

"We are not as satisfied as the Crown appear to be that these reported forensic results lead to this irrefutable inference."

Former detective denies forgery

A FORMER police officer who may face criminal charges over fabricated evidence in the Carl Bridgewater murder inquiry spoke out for the first time yesterday to proclaim his innocence (Carol Middleton writes).

Graham Leake, a retired detective constable, issued a statement denying he had acted improperly and asserting that any charges would be defended.

Mr Leake, now a security guard in the Midlands, was named in the Court of Appeal hearing on Friday as one of two police officers allegedly involved in the forging of a confession by one of the Bridgewater Three, Vince Hickey. But David Twigg, representing the Police Federation, said he did not believe there was any evidence to support charges against Mr

Leake or others. In the statement he said: "We wish to make it plain both on behalf of Mr Leake and other officers whom we represent that our clients deny any improper practice in relation to the investigation of the murder of Carl Bridgewater."

He added: "The decision of the Crown not to oppose the current appeal by the convicted men appears to have been triggered by the reported results of a forensic examination of the written confession of Patrick Molloy, which are said to support an allegation that this confession was induced by the use of a forged document of admission by Vincent Hickey."

"We are not as satisfied as the Crown appear to be that these reported forensic results lead to this irrefutable inference."

Spies in the red to lose clearance

Continued from page 1
was the principal motivation of people betraying their countries. Members of MI6, MI5 and GCHQ are paid at Civil Service rates.

MI6 officers who have their clearance withdrawn have to leave the service because "all or virtually all" MI6 staff have to be vetted," a security source said. The committee said personal problems might not be apparent when an agent starts. "Hence the continuing importance of effective application of security procedures, such as frequent and, at times, random vetting reviews," the report said.

The defences against Russian attempts to penetrate the British intelligence services were "not as strong as they should be", the report said. It called for investigations into individuals' bank balances and "physical searches" of staff entering and leaving agency buildings.

The committee report was published in the light of the Aldrich Ames case in the United States. The former senior CIA officer pocketed £1.5 million from the Russians in return for betraying American secrets on a vast scale. Nine CIA agents were executed because of his betrayal, and Mr King said yesterday that

the latest information indicated that several others may also have been killed. The report concluded, however, that damage to Britain's security arising from the Ames case was not serious.

Mr King insisted at a Cabinet Office press conference that there was "absolutely no evidence" of an Ames-style traitor operating in any of the British agencies. However, the report quoted the words of John Deutch, the former head of the CIA, who said: "There is only one thing worse than finding a spy in your organisation and that is not finding a spy in your organisation."

Continued from page 1
report. Fashion experts expect the sale of her dresses to make at least £4 million. Rumours, emanating from America, that she would split the proceeds between herself and her charities, were ridiculed by her staff, who pointed out that under the terms of her divorce the Princess is barred from any commercial undertaking that would benefit her financially. They said she would even be paying her own fare to

New York to publicise the auction at a fundraising dinner.

Proceeds from the sale are to be divided between two of her remaining charities, the Royal Marsden Hospital in west London, a leading cancer institution of which she is president, and the Aids Crisis Trust, of which she is patron.

They will not have been an auction like it since Sotheby's sold the Duchess of Windsor's jewels in Geneva. Today their

arch-rival, Christie's, will parade details of nearly 100 evening dresses which they will auction in New York on June 26.

The dresses going to auction are far from being the Princess's entire evening wardrobe. After nearly 16 years on the public stage, she is thought to have amassed many hundreds of formal evening outfits, some paid for by the Duchy of Cornwall, some given free by designers.

Princess sues for libel

Continued from page 1

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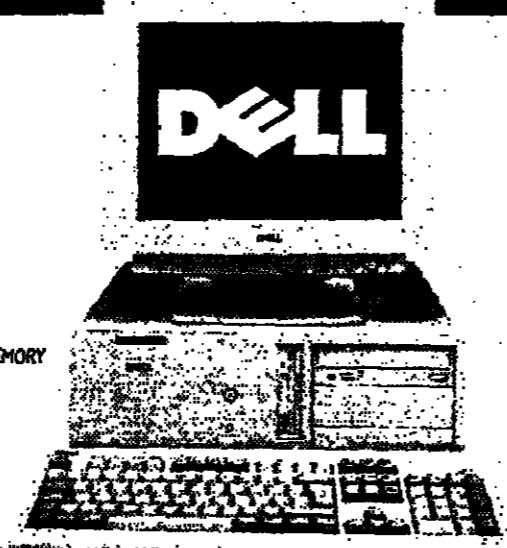
They will not have been an auction like it since Sotheby's sold the Duchess of Windsor's jewels in Geneva. Today their

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NEWS
Disposal
BSE camp
will take
13 years

Superman actor to return in remake of Hitchcock classic

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

CHRISTOPHER REEVE, the *Superman* actor paralysed in a horse-riding accident two years ago, is to make his screen comeback in a remake of *Rear Window*, the Hitchcock thriller about a wheelchair-bound photographer.

Reeve has agreed to take the role played by James Stewart in the 1954 film, which tells the story of the news photographer who, confined to his room after breaking his leg in a car crash, sees a murder in a neighbouring flat.

The original film co-starred Grace Kelly as Stewart's girlfriend. The new film will closely follow the original plot. Instead of a girlfriend, however, Reeve will have a male medical assistant. That role has not yet been filled.

It will be Reeve's first major role since the accident that left him paralysed from the neck down. He has become a staunch disabled rights campaigner and last year made his directorial debut with *In the Gloom*, a film about a young man with AIDS who returns home to die. The film stars Glenn Close, Whoopi Goldberg and Bridget Fonda.



Grace Kelly and James Stewart get claustrophobic in Hitchcock's gripping 1954 classic *Rear Window*

Man found at low tide in Thailand 'murdered'

BY ANDREW DRUMMOND AND STEPHEN FARRELL

A BRITISH tourist found with weights tied to his feet off a pier in a remote fishing village in Thailand could have been the victim of a Thai mafia killing, police said.

The officer leading the investigation into the death of Geoffrey Chapman, who was found at low tide in Sriracha, 100 miles southeast of Bangkok, is treating it as suicide. But police in the nearby beach resort of Pattaya said it appeared to be murder. One officer said: "When the mafia want to make a point, they make sure the body is found."

Mr Chapman, 54, a pylons erector from Scarborough, North Yorkshire, was found on Sunday. One report said he was attached to the balcony of a fisheries building with one rope round his neck and another round his waist. His ankles were tied to a rock.

Peter Chapman, Mr Chapman's older brother, said last night that the family had been told he was murdered. He said his brother, who is estranged from his wife and has two grown-up children, regularly travelled to Thailand on his own during long breaks from working in Germany.

Church helps to pay for vicar's drink treatment

BY JOANNA BALE

A PAROCHIAL church council is to pay £2,500 towards the cost of sending its vicar to a clinic that deals with alcohol dependence. The Rev Edward Coombes of St Bartholomew's Church, Edgbaston, Birmingham, spent two and a half weeks in the private Woodbourne Clinic in the city. His treatment cost £3,000.

Joe Henton, the church warden, said that Mr Coombes admitted himself as a patient in July and resumed his duties after being discharged. He said: "On hearing of Mr Coombes' admission to Woodbourne, the parochial church council immediately expressed its confidence and goodwill towards him, agreeing that it would meet up to 50 per cent of the costs arising from his treatment."

"The generosity of the PCC is a marvellous story. I paid the rest myself. The dedication of the doctors was wonderful." Lee Reed, director of the 45-bed psychiatric hospital, said the vicar would have been in its Manor Clinic, which specialises in addictions. He said: "I cannot comment on particular cases but we do have an addictions unit which deals primarily with alcohol and drug addicts."

"We use a 12-step programme which involves a mixture of group, individual and family counselling. We deal with people with all kinds of psychiatric disorders, in-

cluding depression and eating disorders, but anyone seeking treatment here must have been referred to us by their GP or by another medically qualified consultant."

Joe Henton, the church warden, said that Mr Coombes admitted himself as a patient in July and resumed his duties after being discharged. He said: "On hearing of Mr Coombes' admission to Woodbourne, the parochial church council immediately expressed its confidence and goodwill towards him, agreeing that it would meet up to 50 per cent of the costs arising from his treatment."

"This is an entirely separate account from the main operating account which contains money given in the church collection."

"It was a gesture on our part. Mr Coombes at no time came to us asking for any money. He has now resumed his duties and seems to be fully recovered."

The sticky question is: are biscuits birds of a feather?

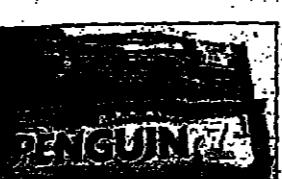
BY DANIEL MCGROarty

CONFUSED shoppers explained to a judge yesterday how they mistakenly purchased a Puffin when scouring their supermarkets to pick up a Penguin.

United Biscuits, which sells £35 million worth of Penguins a year, has accused Asda of trying to usurp its bestselling brand with a blatant imitation called a Puffin.

United Biscuits, which launched Penguins more than 60 years ago, is suing the supermarket chain for trademark infringement after it launched its Puffin brand last year. Both depict cartoon characters of a seabird on their wrappers and are roughly the same size, which United Biscuits say is intended to lure its loyal shoppers astray.

Deborah Smith told the High Court how when her



Rivals in a market worth millions of pounds

husband espied a Puffin in Asda he called it "a rip off". "I assumed it must be United Biscuits making it for Asda. It seemed so blatant it was a Penguin in disguise."

Pauline Bennett explained her confusion to the court. "Both are water birds. Both begin with P and end in N." "What about pigeon?" she was asked by Gordon Pollock, QC, for Asda. "That does not hang around water," she replied.

Jamie Wilson, who works for United Biscuits, said he was among those who an-



The Spice Girl Geri ruled the Brit Awards at rehearsals yesterday. The group, who made their musical debut less than a year ago, won nominations in five categories of the annual awards presented at London's Earls Court last night

'Bent copper' is jailed for £2m cannabis plot

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A CONSTABLE in the Metropolitan Police was jailed for ten years yesterday for his part in a £2 million plot to smuggle cannabis into Britain. Ronald Palumbo, 31, from Chingford in Essex, was one of four men sentenced at Canterbury Crown Court.

Judge Cooke, QC, told Palumbo: "With your police service, you should have known better. In fact, you are what's known as a 'bent copper' in an otherwise honourable force."

Kenneth Harris, 43, of Welling, southeast London, the leader of the group and father-in-law of Palumbo, was jailed for 12 years, David Ng, 37, of Winchester Road, London, for ten years, and John Illingworth, 39, of Greenwich, southeast London, for nine years.

The 15-day trial had been told that a large quantity of cannabis with a street value of more than £2 million had been found expertly concealed in a trailer of a lorry owned by Harris. The lorry was stopped at Dover Eastern Docks in November 1995.

James Vine, for the prosecution, said: "Four trips had been made by this lorry and trailer during the latter half of 1995 and Harris was the organiser of the whole enterprise." Palumbo travelled out on all four trips, usually returning by air. On the first of the trips Palumbo went in the cab of the lorry being

driven by Ng. On the second Palumbo and Harris flew from London to Spain, returning two days later.

"On the third trip Palumbo again flew out of London with Harris, again staying in Spain for two days, and on the fourth and final trip Palumbo flew to Spain with Ng. Illingworth was the driver on the final three trips."

Illingworth and Ng had said they had no idea drugs were involved. Palumbo, who had joined the police force in 1986, was posted to Stoke Newington Police Station and transferred to Lime House Police Station in about 1992.

In June 1992 he was suspended after allegations of corruption were made into his arrest of a crack cocaine dealer. In November 1995 he was acquitted.

Palumbo had told the court that during the suspension from 1992 to 1995 he had been under pressure and was on medication because of the impending proceedings and was asked by Harris to go on the trips to Spain so he could get away from it all. "I have been used by Harris. I had nothing to do with the drugs. If I had known about the drugs I would have told someone," he said.

A Customs spokesman said after the case: "We have received full co-operation from the Met. There is no suggestion of other police officers being involved."

Sir Norman Foster's masterpiece in steel.

Not for the first time, Sir Norman Foster examines the familiar stainless steel Rolex GMT-Master on his wrist.

"I would say it is a design classic," he says, then continues by explaining that he admires how functional it is, how simply and directly it communicates information to him, and how he uses its rotatable bezel to check way-points when he is piloting his helicopter.

For Sir Norman Foster, good design is generated by people's needs. He has answered these needs with outstanding architectural solutions in his native England, throughout Europe, and – most notably – in Hong Kong.

It was Foster's design for the headquarters of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank that confirmed his position at the forefront of international architecture.



This supremely elegant building epitomises many of Foster's beliefs as an architect.

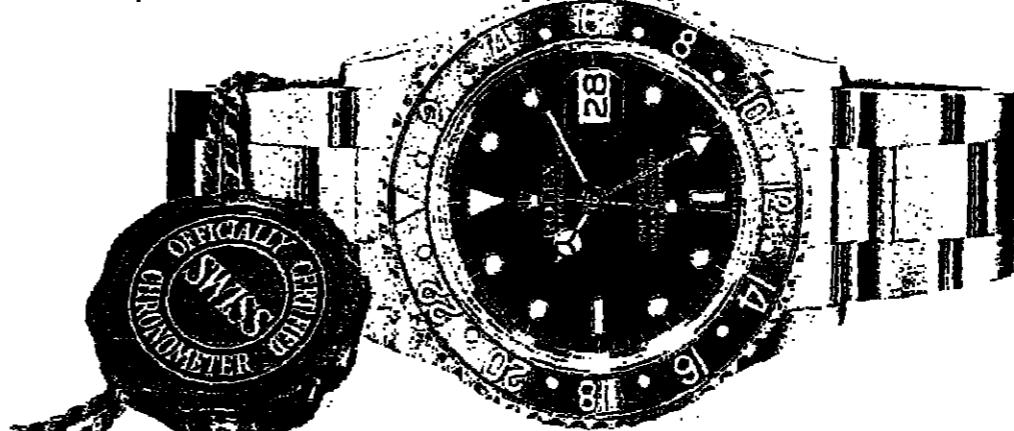
The interior is extraordinarily light and airy. This is achieved by a breath-taking complex of steel supports which leave vast uncluttered spaces for the people who work there, and by a unique 'sunscope' which follows the progress of the sun and funnels light down into the atrium.

Then there is Foster's legendary attention to detail. He has enormous concern for the way in which things are put together and immense respect for the materials he uses.

As one architectural reviewer has commented: "Foster takes engineering materials and treats them like jewellery."

Is it any surprise that he should wear a Rolex?

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The Rolex Oyster GMT-Master II Chronometer is stainless steel. Also available in 18ct. gold or in steel and yellow metal.

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Silenced Mrs Blair stars in Wirral test run for election

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

CHERIE BLAIR sparked yesterday in the role of party leader's wife when she joined her husband in Wirral South in a dress rehearsal for the general election. But it was a starring part with no lines.

Mrs Blair shook hands enthusiastically and was, in turns, sympathetic, concerned, inquiring and even flirtatious as she met doctors, nurses and patients on a tour of Arrowe Park Hospital in Upton, Merseyside.

The Labour Party eased her on to the electoral stage in a tightly managed attempt to woo voters before Thursday's poll and to counter the threat posed by Norma Major, the Prime Minister's vaunted "secret weapon".

With spin doctors at her shoulder, Mrs Blair was not allowed to fluff her lines on her first big day on the stump. She did not have any. To counter unwelcome comparisons with Hillary Clinton and jibes that she is behaving like

WIRRAL SOUTH

□ 1992 general election: Barry Porter (C, 25,590); Helen Southworth (Lab, 17,407); Ed Cummins (LD, 6,581). Majority: 8,183.

A First Lady. Mrs Blair will not speak directly to the press, give interviews or make speeches during the general election campaign to come.

Instead Mrs Blair, who as Cherie Booth QC, earns a six-figure salary, will join her husband "whenever her work commitments allow", where she will look good on his arm and carry on shaking hands and chatting while he peels off to deliver the sound-bite interviews. "She has seen what has happened to other politician's spouses," one aide said.

Arrowe Park, a bustling NHS hospital with 1,271 beds, was a carefully chosen venue for the kind of role she will be playing in the weeks to come. A caravan of party officials

and minders following Mr and Mrs Blair round the wards ensured that she was not questioned directly or ambushed by pressmen.

The visit was masterminded by Alastair Campbell, Mr Blair's chief press secretary, and his wife, Fiona Millar, Mrs Blair's press adviser. As soon as Mrs Blair spotted a notebook or camera she turned on her heels.

The Labour leader said: "She will be out with me at times during the general election campaign but it does not alter, in any way, the position she has taken. We are in politics — if you don't like the heat, you do not come into the kitchen. She has her own career and she is very happy with that. I am delighted to have her here."

In a reference to the photograph published last week of Mrs Blair caught off guard in a voluminous woollen jersey, he added: "I apologise for that jumper but I liked it."

It was Mr Blair's third visit to the Wirral South constitu-



Tony and Cherie Blair at Arrowe Park Hospital in Upton, Merseyside, yesterday on their visit to the Wirral South by-election campaign

ency. Yesterday he concentrated on the NHS, reflecting the concerns of voters in a recent opinion poll. His message was that there is a growing crisis in Wirral's hospitals with 6,000 patients on waiting lists and one in four patients waiting at least six months for treatment.

While her husband was giving interviews, Mrs Blair sped off towards the hospital's

league of friends shop, where point she turned to a porter wearing a T-shirt with the words, "Portering services, Wirral Hospital" and told him flirtatiously: "You look handsome." "What, in a £3 tee shirt?" a bemused Peter Wilson replied.

But Mrs Blair was steering clear of controversy. At one

she asked pensioner volunteers about their work behind the sweet counter. Evelyn Baxter, one of the 101 volunteers, said afterwards: "She was very pleasant, not at all uppity. Some of these people are, I relate to people as they are and she was very interested in what was going on."

In the playroom of a chil-

dren's ward, the Blairs presented a gift of a toddler's activity table. "Who's that touching my bottom?" asked Mrs Blair as she squatted to talk to one little girl playing with a toy car. The culprit was four-year-old Lee Abbott, who was pushing past the Labour leader's wife to get to the toy sweet shop. "It brings back memories for us," Mr Blair said.

Jane Hignett, 40, a secre-

tary, was told her red and yellow badge supporting Ben Chapman, Labour's candidate, was pretty. Meeting Mrs Blair was a bonus. "She is lovely," she said.

Aides made it clear that Mrs Blair had specially requested to accompany her husband. It gave her a chance to visit relatives on Merseyside, where she grew up.

Big rise in agency staff 'cuts quality of hospital care'

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

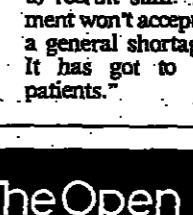
MOONLIGHTING doctors and nurses are increasingly being used to fill the gap left by staff shortages in NHS hospitals and to save money, medical organisations said yesterday.

New figures show that average spending by acute hospitals on agency staff rose 63 per cent in 1993-96 while total spending on all staff rose 10 per cent. The average acute hospital now spends £1.3 million a year on agency staff compared with £807,000 three years ago.

Many of the agency staff are junior doctors and nurses with permanent jobs who work in their spare time to make ends meet.

The figures, in the *Midnighting of NHS Trusts* published yesterday, show that Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust increased its spending on agency staff by 200 per cent in 1993-96 compared with a 24 per cent increase in total staff costs.

The United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust recorded a 105 per cent increase in agency staff costs compared with a 16 per cent rise in total spending on staff. King's Healthcare NHS Trust in London increased its agency staff bill by 30 per cent while the total



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Scots are not a race apart, industrial tribunal decides

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

FOUR airline stewards who claimed British Airways discriminated against them because they were Scottish had their case thrown out yesterday.

An industrial tribunal in Glasgow ruled that the case could not proceed under race discrimination laws because Scots did not belong to a different ethnic race to the English.

The stewards had claimed that they were treated differently from their English colleagues during company reorganisation in September 1993, when they were transferred from cabin crew jobs in the Highlands and Islands Division of BA to mainland services based in London.

They said that their new positions took no account of their years of service in Scotland. In contrast, stewards moving from Manchester and Birmingham at the same time had their past records taken into account.

As a result Caroline Gray,

31, from Glasgow, Aileen Rawes, 41, from Houston, Dorothy McGowan, 42, from Elderdale, and Mark Boyce, 34, from Paisley, all near Glasgow, said that between them they had lost a total of 38 years' service, which drastically reduced their chances of promotion and placed them at the bottom of the seniority list for cabin staff. They are still employed by the airline.

Hugh Murphy, the tribunal chairman, ruled that BA had not discriminated against them on racial grounds because they were of the same racial group as those with whom they sought to compare themselves. A claim by BA that the complaint was time-expired was rejected.

At an earlier hearing in December, BA denied discrimination and said the case should not go ahead on two technicalities: that Scots and English shared the same ethnic origin, and that the complaints had been made outside Inverness, because of his race.

the three-month time limit. Bill Spiers, the solicitor representing the four cabin crew, said: "In my view it is patently obvious to everyone there is a separate Scots ethnic group with a separate Scots identity. Scots have a separate legal system, their own design, music, dance, cuisine, accent, use of language." The Scots were recognised as a separate ethnic group for sport and the Government placed signs at the border.

In a similar, unrelated case, a senior police officer in Scotland has claimed he was ignored for promotion because he is English.

A report is expected in the next few weeks on whether the industrial tribunal can examine the case of Graham Power, 49, the Yorkshire-born Deputy Chief Constable of Lothian and Borders. He alleges he was left off the shortlist for the position of Chief Constable of Northern Constabulary, in Inverness, because of his race.

Skidder's RECEIPTS OF PASTRY AND COOKERY

For the Use of his Scholars.

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Former Zimbabwe President accused of policeman's rape

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

HE Rev Canaan Banana, Zimbabwe's first President, as a predatory homosexual he forced a young aide-de-camp to submit to repeated rape and sexual abuse, according to evidence disclosed here today.

Jefta Dube, 36, has told the Harare High Court that the turbaned, statesman, theologian and author had used "ugs, threats and imprisonment to terrify him into an intended ordeal of deep kissing, watching gay pornographic films and oral and anal sex at State House, the official presidential residence from 1983 to 1986.

The policeman, a former ardent with three O-levels, as been tried for shooting dead another officer who outed him for being "Banana's homosexual wife" in 1985. He claimed he was perpetually drunk and emotionally distraught as a result of his experience, and did not know what he was doing when he shot Patrick Mashiri in the head.

The evidence became public yesterday when Judge David Arlett lifted reporting restrictions imposed when the trial began last August. He said he found the policeman's evidence credible, as was the testimony of the witnesses he supported his claims. The legal team of the former Presi-

dent's homosexual abuse "must be accepted as if they were true", he said.

The court was told that Mr Banana had spotted Dube playing for the police football team, the Black Mambas, in late 1983, and invited him to apply for the job of aide-de-camp. Police headquarters had nothing to do with his selection.

Dube was found guilty of murder with actual intent, but with diminished responsibility, and was sentenced to ten years in jail. The judge urged authorities to investigate the accusations against the former head of state.

There are serious implications for the Government of President Mugabe, who for the past two years has maintained vehement anti-gay rhetoric, reviling homosexuality as

He said he awoke before dawn on the carpet, without his trousers or underpants. Mr Banana was standing over him, smiling, and said: "We have helped ourselves."

Mr Banana is a pillar of respectability at home and abroad. In 1989 he served on a United Nations commission of "eminent churchmen" investigating international business in South Africa, and two years ago was the Organisation of African Unity's "eminent person" attempting to intervene in the wars in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Banana: theologian

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Taliban advancing yesterday on the Shabur Pass where it claims new successes

Moscow sending arms to Afghans

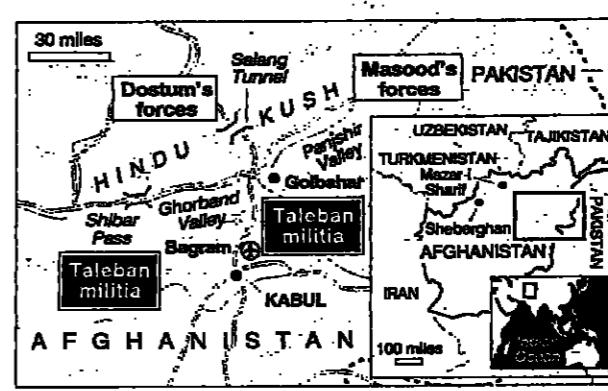
FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN MAZAR-I-SHARIF

RUSSIA is supplying arms to northern Afghanistan, its second military intervention in 18 years, to bolster defences against the extremist Taliban Islamic militia as it battles to reach Central Asia. A spring offensive by the fighters, who control two-thirds of the country, looks inevitable.

International competition for influence in the region is unprecedented. Iran has joined Russia in siding the northern forces, while Saudi Arabia is directly funding Taliban with the tacit support of the US.

Russia backs Taliban's rivals in order to protect the Shia minority — perhaps 10 per cent of the population — and because it fears US and Pakistani influence could turn Afghanistan into a centre of armed Iranian opposition.

□ Fighters' claim: Taliban captured the strategic Shabur Pass in Bamyan province, northwest of Kabul, the Voice of Sharia radio said. The pass is regarded as a gateway to north Afghanistan. (Reuters)



Weizman's British visit renews links

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ZER WEIZMAN, the swashbuckling former RAF fighter pilot who today becomes the first Israeli President to make a state visit to London, has many links with Britain beyond his distinguished wartime service.

His wife Reuma, who will accompany him, was born in 1970 when his son Shaul, a paratrooper, was severely injured in the Sinai campaign. He later died in a traffic accident.

The Weizman family emigrated from Russia, but the current President, now aged 72, was born in Tel Aviv. Explaining the difference in spellings of the family surname, he joked: "My father decided one 'n' was good enough for us."

Along with his late brother-in-law, Moshe Dayan, Mr Weizman is regarded as a charismatic fighter-politician. A hawk turned dove, he became the first Israeli Cabinet member to make open

contact with the then-outlawed Palestine Liberation Organisation. In the Six Day War, he laid the plans that led to the destruction of the Egyptian Air Force on the ground.

Friends say that his conversion to the peace camp came in 1970 when his son Shaul, a paratrooper, was severely injured in the Sinai campaign. He later died in a traffic accident.

Recently, he personally visited the families of each of the 73 soldiers killed when two helicopters crashed.

Mr Weizman has never been able, or much bothered, to curb his tongue. When he was castigated for contacting the PLO he replied: "We have one of the best air forces in the world and a good little army. When people say that the PLO wants to destroy us, I piddle myself with laughter."

Leading article, page 17

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Stalker called Rabanne 'Satan'

Paris: A woman who stalked Paco Rabanne, the Spanish fashion designer, for more than three years, accusing him of being "Satan", was given a year's suspended jail sentence and put on probation. Josiane Pasquier, 50, claimed that he taunted her by telepathy when she ate chocolate.

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Police uncover Eta plot to assassinate Spanish princess

By BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS AND TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

BASQUE terrorists planned to murder or kidnap the Infanta Elena de Borbón, eldest daughter of King Juan Carlos of Spain, while she was out horse-riding in southwest France, according to one of France's top counter-terrorism experts.

The plot by militants of the Basque separatist group Eta was uncovered after the arrest last month of José Luis Urrusolo Sistiaga, believed to be number three in the Eta leadership. Roland Jacquard, head of the independent International Terrorism Observatory in Paris, told *France-Soir* newspaper.

"Urrusolo planned a high-profile and symbolic coup: the kidnapping or assassination of the Spanish Infanta." M. Jacquard, who has close links with the French secret services, said.

However, Fernando Delgado Martínez, a senior spokesman for the Spanish Interior Ministry, said yesterday that he "had absolutely no knowledge" of any plot to kill or kidnap the Infanta Elena.

Senior Urrusolo, 39, was arrested in Bordeaux on January 16 after driving through a police barrier. He was allegedly carrying a revolver and false identity papers. M. Jacquard said police also recovered

three snipers in Majorca. Eta separatists are believed to have identified targets in France in retaliation for the increased co-operation between French and Spanish anti-terrorism authorities, which has led to more than 200 arrests over the past ten years.

Some 51 Spanish members of Eta are currently imprisoned in France, and young Basque separatist militants have reportedly set up terrorist cells in Brittany, the Gironde region and around Toulouse.

Counter-terrorist experts in France say that elements within Eta may have chosen to bring their campaign to France in defiance of the group's political leadership.

Juan Luis Aguirre, Eta's logistics second-in-command, was arrested last November in a "safe house" in Bayonne, where police recovered documents proposing "punitive" attacks in France and naming a series of possible targets including Jean-Louis Débré, the French Interior Minister, Laurence Le Vert, the anti-terrorism judge and Roger Marion, the Paris police chief in charge of anti-terrorist operations. Charles Pasqua, the former Interior Minister, was also named.

Scotland Yard's 80-strong SO14 unit, which provides protection for the Royal Family, is certain to have been alerted to the Spanish plot.

Special Branch and MI5 have links to other security forces in the EU. British police would have a special interest because members of the Royal Family, especially the Prince of Wales and his former wife, have visited the Spanish royal family regularly.

Kohl fights for survival with talks on tax reform

FROM ROGER BOVES IN BONN

HELMUT KOHL the German Chancellor, yesterday embarked on a bruising fight for political survival by inviting leading opposition Social Democrats to cross-party negotiations on the long-delayed reform of the German tax system.

The Bonn talks, which are likely to continue for about a month, come amid frenzied speculation about the German leader's future. Herr Kohl has told friends that he will declare after Easter whether he intends to stand for re-election next year.

Some believe this means the Chancellor will be guided by personal or even sentimental reasons — he has just become a grandfather and the whole family will gather briefly over the holiday. However, the most important indication of his future will be the outcome of the talks with the Social Democrats.

Herr Kohl has broken away from his social conservative

political roots and is trying to recast himself as the moderniser of Germany. Tax, health and pension reforms are all on the agenda as the Chancellor tries to overhaul public spending and trim back the welfare state, in part to meet the entry criteria for European economic and monetary union.

As a result he has exposed the risks in his party between conservatives and reformers, and now needs to call on the support of the Social Democrats, who are themselves divided on how far the welfare system can be pruned. The Social Democrats enjoy a majority in the Bundesrat, the upper house of parliament, which has been blocking or delaying some of the Chancellor's legislation.

Bonn's governing coalition wants to cut the top level of income tax from 53 to 39 per cent, they want to scrap tax advantages for those who work at weekends or nights, and impose income tax on pensions starting from £12,000 a year. The Government also wants to tax profit from maturing life insurance policies. It is considering making up for the shortfall in tax revenue by raising value added tax.

The Social Democrats

reject for electoral reasons, any tax on pensions or night and shift work. However, the key question will be how to make up the tax revenue shortfall.

Anatole Kaletsky, page 16

US instructors accused of rape

Darmstadt: Three American army instructors in Germany have been suspended over claims that they sexually harassed and raped at least 21 women soldiers. US military authorities said here. (AFP)

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The Infanta Elena de Borbón, King Juan Carlos's eldest daughter and second in line to the Spanish throne, who now lives in Paris

Chameleon on the run for 20 years

JOSE LUIS URRUSOLO SISTIAGA, alias Joseba, was Spain's most wanted Basque terrorist at the time of his arrest (Tunku Varadarajan writes).

His genius for disguise earned him notoriety as "the man with a thousand faces", and police have remarked on the manner in which he could transform himself in minutes "from a person who looks like a young lawyer to someone who could pass for an old

Basque grandfather". Senior Urrusolo, 39, was arrested by police close to his hideout near Bordeaux on January 17. He is regarded by Spanish police as the most dangerous member of the high command of Eta, the Basque terrorist group which has waged a violent campaign for independence from Madrid since 1968, in which more than 800 people have died.

He is believed to be the

group's number three, charge of logistics and arms training of new recruits.

Such is the murkiness of Eta's world, however. anti-terrorist experts in Spain speculate that Senior Urrusolo might even have been the group's overall commander. Wanted on 18 separate charges of murder, he joined Eta in 1976, making him one of the organisation's longest serving members.

New rift over Nato threatened by France

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

FRANCE is prepared to reverse its decision to rejoin Nato if Washington maintains its refusal to give up control of the Southern Command, based in Naples, French officials said yesterday.

Diplomats confirmed a hardening in French terms for returning to full Nato membership as the alliance reported more progress than expected in negotiations with Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Foreign Minister, on a pact that would smooth the way for the entry of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic. Among arrangements already outlined is the creation of a "Nato-Russia Council" to be based at the alliance's headquarters in Brussels.

Paris has been growing frustrated over the lack of support from its allies for its plans for the rapid "Europeanisation" of Nato, a process which it set last year as the price for its re-entry. While France's reentrance is widely viewed as a negotiating ploy in the run-up to a string of key Nato decisions, French officials acknowledge that President Chirac could find domestic advantage in staying out of the organisation.

France's main demand has been the appointment of a European officer in charge of the Naples command, which includes the US Sixth Fleet and has always been held by Americans. Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, told President Chirac last week that the arrangement was not negotiable.

The French are in turn telling the Americans that they are prepared to stay outside rather than back down and the matter must be settled by a Nato summit in July. "This is going to depend on the White House. It's something that goes beyond Albright. Clinton will have to cut a deal," a senior French official said yesterday.

Hervé de Charette, the French Foreign Minister, said yesterday he struck by a threat which he delivered to Nato colleagues in Brussels last week. Reforming the Naples command, which will be one of only two European regional commands in the new Nato, was the key to answering France's needs, he said. "If there is continuing disagreement, we will be obliged to stay where we are. An historic occasion would have been lost."

M. de Charette proposed a scheme to share the Naples command between an American and a European officer of equal rank. US officials said it "would not be a tragedy" if France went its own way, given the irritation that M. Chirac and his team have caused Washington recently.

Tycoon lines up for Serb presidency

FROM TOM WALKER IN SARAJEVO

BOGOJUB KARIC, Serbia's richest businessman, has said that he will run for the country's presidency if the opposition Zajedno coalition cannot put forward a realistic candidate to challenge the ruling Socialists.

According to reports in Belgrade, the multimillionaire Mr Karic, who has

Canadian citizenship, had private talks with student leaders in which he said he saw a "unique chance" to save Serbia. Mr Karic was previously a confidant of President Milosevic, and his defection from the head of state's inner circle provides fresh evidence that the Serbian leader is rapidly losing vital friends.

Zajedno has so far maintained that its presidential candidate should be Vuk Draskovic, but the charismatic novelist

and figurehead for street demonstrators is viewed with suspicion by many. Mr Karic, 43, is regarded as a Orthodox patriot with international experience and contacts who, unlike many not only his name through war profiting and sanctions-busting. His rift with Mr Milosevic surfaced last month when his Braca Karic television channel changed its policy and began giving full coverage to the Belgrade street protests.

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Hinkler reports
as
headmaster and a
sister helped
the town to cope

There was a prick at
the back of my neck
as I walked across the
car park towards the
gate of Dunblane Primary
School. The last time I had
been there, the road was
filled by police, the pavements
overflowed with a strag-
gle queue of grey-faced
adults, the crash-barriers
held back a phalanx of
teachers. It was the morning
of the massacre, and news was
beginning to filter out
of the enormity of what
had happened. Now, the only
visual sign was the security
at the door who asked me
to sign in. I handed him an identity
card. The rest was normal. On
the walls were children's
drawings. From behind a closed
door came the sound of a
teacher raising her voice
over a background of chattering.
A clutch of five-year-olds
crossed the hall, giggling,
their way to another class.
I turned quiet than an
ordinary primary school, but
this was just my imagination.

The headmaster, Ron Taylor,
one of the unsung heroes
of Dunblane. It was he who
brought the children and
the morale of its staff
at the same time dealing
with the massive pressure of
attention. No one who
watched him on television
the children first went
to school will ever forget
the way he performed — calm,
dignified, reassuring, empathetic.
"This has been a long,
week full of tears," he
said. "Dunblane is still in
shock. However, the evil



Ron Taylor and the class that was attacked: "I have learnt just how resilient children are. But despite their resilience, they think about things in a lot more depth. Some of the insights they have are amazing"

that came last week has gone. This day marks the beginning of our recovery. And mark my words, we will recover. I promise you that." The words were unscripted. Ron Taylor was given just ten minutes' notice of the interview. "I was taken by surprise," he says now. "There was no time to prepare anything."

So has the promise been fulfilled? He took me over to the window of his small office. It looks out onto the playground, a view that he has deliberately chosen. Outside the boys and girls of Primary One and Two were having their break. They were scampering across the yard, joining in boisterous games breaking off for quick, secret conversations, behaving the way young children do when they have escaped from class. They included several who had been injured by Hamilton's bullets.

"Tell me," he said, "how do those children look to you? Do they look like normal children enjoying themselves?" I said they did. "Well, there's the answer. That's what has made this last year worthwhile."

That simple scene, of course, masks a more complex reality. The scars of March 13 are still exposed, and Mr Taylor has learnt much since then about children and how they deal with shock and loss. "I have learnt just how resilient children are. But despite their resilience, they think about things in a lot more depth than people realise. I know from discussions and things they've written that they are almost more reflective than adults are, and some of the insights they have are amazing."

A number of the children, for instance, wondered at Christmas whether it would be all right to enjoy the day in view of what had happened. Teachers had to spend a lot of time reassuring them that of course it would be. "We dis-

cussed how we were never going to forget the children who died, but equally we had to move on, too. For young children to be concerned that Christmas was something they could enjoy was a real problem for us."

That concern continues. "We have a seven-year-old boy who has a birthday very close to the anniversary, and he is going through a lot of problems about whether he should have a party. It's these kind of issues that arise all the time." As if that was not enough, there has been a restructuring, with some pupils moving to a new school across the river. They have not wanted to go, and some have worried about "abandoning" their classmates.

The children are not the only ones to have faced emotional hurdles. The teachers, including those who were injured by Hamilton's bullets, have had to present a reassuring front to their pupils every day. Yet they are coping with psychological stress of a kind hard for the rest of us to imagine. Neither Mr Taylor nor his staff have taken more than a day or two off since the tragedy. Certainly, there has been counselling and psychological support, but in the end they have been thrown back on their own resources.

"Because this is a unique situation," says Mr Taylor, "no one can really guide us. The stress on staff has been tremendous. Dealing with their own feelings and trying to cope with the children and trying to make the school a normal learning environment has been a huge task. But they've coped and achieved that magnificently. Morale has always been high and the team spirit that has developed has been quite marvellous."

"Many have gone to GPs to receive medication and have been put on to counsellors or psychiatrists or whatever. Each person copes in their own way. But the interesting thing is that almost everyone had to do that. Myself included. Some pupils require considerable help. They find school a sanctuary almost. It's strange. I would hesitate to say it's a safe environment for them. But in a way it is. When they're home some children exhibit problems. But here they are together with their friends and getting support. And that's how the staff feel."

Mr Taylor has decided — not without some disagreement — to keep the school open on March 13. The doors will open at 10.30 so that

'Our job is simply to be there'

"I CAN detect from some people almost a sense of relief that we are coming to what they would recognise as the final hurdle," says the Rev Colin McIntosh. "After this, they are saying, Dunblane will get back to normal."

That may be the hope. Mr McIntosh himself seems less certain of it being realised. The minister of Dunblane Cathedral, who has been dealing with the spiritual crisis into which the town was plunged by the events of March 13, is still deeply troubled by its aftermath, and cannot see the scars being easily healed.

"I am conscious of the mistakes I have made, and also, in retrospect, the things I feel I should have anticipated but didn't. Like realising that we would come to the stage where people would be moving on at different rates. I think I should have known that."

He concedes that after the initial unity, there was "a simmering tension" in the community which came to a head just before Christmas. A trivial incident over whether to site a Christmas tree at the cemetery divided those who believed that the time had come to turn their backs on the tragedy, and those who could not put the past behind them.

It actually was a very cathartic time," says Mr McIntosh. "It helped a lot of us to realise that we couldn't expect people to be thinking and saying the same things, because they were at different stages. And when we stopped and looked at some of the things we had said, we were a wee bit ashamed of ourselves. We had to respect each other."

It has made him pull back from the role that was initially assigned to him — as much by the media as the town itself — of spiritual guide, figurehead almost for a grieving community. His message from the pulpit at the memorial

service, with its wonderfully moving sentence, "God's was the first of all our hearts to break", placed him at the centre of the Dunblane stage. Now, however, he has doubts about the wisdom of that approach. "I wonder if the role for a number of us is not to be a little more quiet ... to stay in the background. For quite a large part of the year we were fairly prominent because, in all humility, we felt that the community had to be guided. But a year on, people are all at different stages in the process of healing. Whereas last March we could say that the whole community was united in that everyone felt exactly the same, we can't say that now ... Our job is simply to be there and available, but a bit more quietly in the background ... does that make sense?"

He admits, too, that for many "God has not been at the top of their agenda". Their preoccupation has been with survival rather than questions about faith and reconciliation. "I think an increasing number of people do not express their faith in terms of church attendance, so it's difficult to quantify how that faith has been affected. But there is a lot of distress at a very deep level and reactions to that are very different."

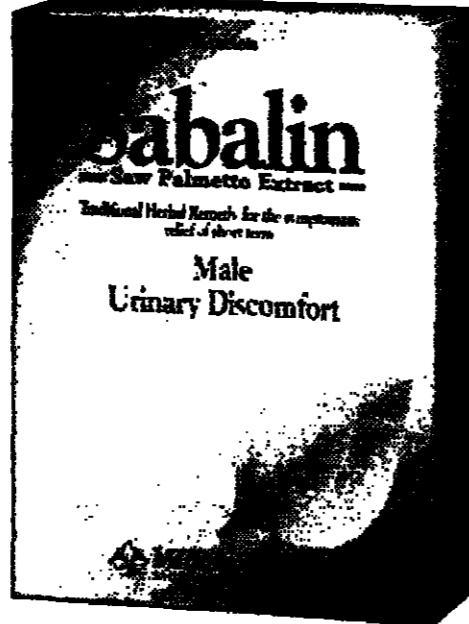
It is clear that the minister feels that "deep level of distress" himself. Sitting in the large manse with his two large golden retrievers beside him, he seems a lonely figure, only too conscious of his inadequacy in helping others to cope with their suffering. Everyone who knows him says this is simply not the case and that he has been a tower of strength. He remains unconvinced. But though events may have shaken his faith, they have not undermined it. "At the same time, I felt that I was being helped, if that makes sense."

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families can visit the site of the shooting — the gymnasium has long since been razed, and trees planted in the space. Thereafter it will be a normal day. Suggestions that there should be a minute's silence were rejected as inappropriate. "What do you ask Primary Two children to think about?"

Presiding over this will be a man who exudes quiet confidence, but who is also subject to strong emotion. As well as dealing with the aftermath of tragedy, Mr Taylor has been going through a divorce, so there has been no stable family to fall back on. How has he coped? Mainly, he says, by talking. "I feel able to talk without too much of a problem," he says. "Each person copes in their own way, myself included. Here we are together with friends and getting support. There will always be scars. Always emotional scars. It's not something one can ever forget. Losing a colleague and losing children are just one's worst nightmare. But to survive and to be true to the children who are here, we have to put it behind us and move on. We have no option."

"It's not easy, and I think this approaching anniversary has crystallised that for us. We feel this is the largest hurdle we have had to face. But hopefully, it is the last one."



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Faith in the family

Devaluing domesticity is fatal to society, says Jonathan Sacks

Consider a family: father, mother and children. They live, eat and relax together, though each wants times and spaces in which to be alone. There are certain rules that bind them together, without which they would find it difficult to get along. Let us suppose that these include such things as this: that on at least some nights of the week they eat together, that not everyone talks at once, that there is a roughly equitable sharing of responsibilities, and that when Mum or Dad says that it's time to go to bed, there are rituals of protest followed by reluctant obedience.

Sometimes the rules break down, as they do in every family. There are arguments, "scenes", minor rebellions. These are followed by the routines of reconciliation: someone says sorry, he or she is forgiven, order is restored, and love reaffirmed. In this sequence of everyday transactions we witness, in miniature, the making and sustaining of the moral life.

Deep beneath the surface of this family are certain fundamental concepts: fidelity, loyalty, responsibility, authority, obedience, justice and compassion. They frame a series of expectations: that neither husband nor wife will commit adultery, that when the children are young they will do what they are told, sometimes (though as rarely as possible) without fully understanding why, that parental requests will be consistent, fair and in the long-term interests of the children, and that the members of the family will not walk out on one another or ignore a cry for help.

Except in extreme situations, these things do not need to be spelt out, because the family is a social institution. It is not something its members have invented, any more than they have made the language they speak. It is something they have inherited from the culture - from habit or custom, or the example of their parents, or possibly religious teaching. But when one of the basic rules is broken, there is a breach in the wall of trust, and unless it is mended, there will not be the same again.

The stable family is not a dispensable institution. Communities such as the Israeli kibbutz have tried, and after long experience, have reverted to more traditional patterns. The family is the crucible of much that matters in later life, the growth of sympathy and trust and sociality. It is where we learn who we are, where we came from, and where we belong. Above all, it is the matrix of the belief that lies at the heart of hope itself, namely that love given is not given in vain, that in the sharing of vulnerabilities we discover strength. Heaven help us if, as a society, we are judged by history to have campaigned for the protection of animals, birds, rare plants and rainforests while failing to heed the cry of our own children.

It is not that there are no government policies that would, over the course of time, bring healing to the fractured family. There are



We no more invent our families than our language

morality matters, and why so few acts are truly private. It deviates the currency of commitment: the word spoken, the pledge given, the promise undertaken. What we do today others may do in the future, affected, consciously or unconsciously, by our example. We tacitly teach our partners, friends, and above all our children, that despite our most serious undertakings, the word of another person cannot be trusted.

Reconnecting morality and politics is the genesis of hope, because morality restores to politics the idea that there are things I can change. I am bound to others, and together we are the co-authors of our world. Of this, the supreme example is the family. Far from being the institution we can least affect, it is the one we can most affect, as it is made or unmade by our choices.

The devolving of the family and the legitimisation of sexual licence, whether in Ancient Greece or contemporary Britain, is the beginning of the end of a social system. If there are any objective limits to a moral order, they lie here. We need to be cared for before we can learn to care for others. The family will die only if we lose faith in it. We have not lost faith in it, so it will not die.

Jonathan Sacks, 1997

The final extract from *The Politics of Hope*, to be published on March 6 by Cape, £15.99.



Like a wolf on the fold

Cloning animals reduces diversity, and means imperilling genetic strains that we may need in future

The shepherd's calendar will never be the same now that we have Dolly the lamb, cloned in Edinburgh from a scrap of udder. This revolutionary mammal is the first offspring grown, via a modified egg and surrogate mother, from a shred of an adult animal's body to which she is genetically identical. Why, hello Dolly! I trust the spring keeps fine for you.

It is just as well that the team at the Roslin Institute and PPL Therapeutics have so carefully explained why they did it. We are told that Dolly offers the possibility of producing flocks of medicated transgenic milk-sheep to help, for instance, haemophiliacs. As medical research, she is less vulnerable to Luddite vilification: it would clearly never have done for some supermarket chain to have brazenly presented her as the answer to the problem of standardising lamb chops so as to bring down the costs of shrink-wrapping.

Even so, the Frankenstein alarmist have had plenty to work on. If they can do it with sheep, they will soon work out how to do it to human beings, they cry. It is illegal in Britain even to try, but who knows about the world's less lawful corners? Commentators have dug out Ira Levin's old thriller *The Boys from Brazil*, in which neo-Nazis secretly clone Hitler in the rainforest and place the children for adoption in families with an identical social profile to the late Adolf, hoping to strike lucky again. Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* has been dusted off, too, with its image of obedient workers being rolled off a production line (although they were not clones of an adult but grossly multiplied twins, 15,000 per egg).

There has been wild talk of dictators cloning themselves, impsarios cloning ageing superstars (grow your own Ken Dodd) or parents stockpiling spare embryos of their baby in case of cot-death. *The Times* caused many of us to choke over yesterday's toast with a deadpan line from a science writer about a woman who asked him "only last week" how she could clone her dead father and bring him back to life as a baby, perhaps even carrying him in her own womb. He has sent her a message saying "it will be possible sooner than she thinks". Sadly, this does not appear to have been accompanied by another message saying "See a psychiatrist, madam, now."

No doubt by today even more grisly possibilities will have emerged. The devolving of the family and the legitimisation of sexual licence, whether in Ancient Greece or contemporary Britain, is the beginning of the end of a social system. If there are any objective limits to a moral order, they lie here. We need to be cared for before we can learn to care for others. The family will die only if we lose faith in it. We have not lost faith in it, so it will not die.

Jonathan Sacks, 1997

The final extract from *The Politics of Hope*, to be published on March 6 by Cape, £15.99.

up to and including the suggestion that Baroness Thatcher has donated a chunk of soft tissue to the backroom boys at Conservative Central Office, while Old Labour renegades are secretly churning out baby Benns. Good, rousing sci-fi stuff: you might easily forget that it all began with one little lamb.

This is a pity. Leaving aside the disgusting and wholly pointless possibility of human cloning, there are more urgent questions. This breakthrough has been made with animals, and the earliest risks lie with animals. Transgenic medical sheep are only the beginning. There are other, equally profitable areas of livestock management which would love to reproduce their favourite specimens. How long before the first Derby or Grand National winner passes the post only to have a bit of flesh nipped nearly out of its rump and injected into a blasted-out egg? How long before a service is offered to besotted pet-owners whereby the incipient demise of the dear sin-ezu is softened by the prospect of rebuilding it from a bit of ear? How long before someone nimbles to the marketing opportunity for Disney? Just think of the profit on selling the actual Dalmatians worldwide, a hundred and one million of them.

As for the agricultural industry, it would welcome herds of identical, trouble-free, genetically redesigned beasts. Food producers have already given us the turkey with so much breast that it can't mate naturally, the sow which needs a Caesarean section to give birth, and the cow whose udder is so heavy she is in daily pain. Horsebreeding has given us thoroughbreds so biologically inefficient that they need continual injections to stay healthy; the dog world has a record of producing creatures that can't breathe or see properly through their decorative flaps of skin, and golden retrievers that bite.

All this was done with ordinary

two-sex breeding methods. Add the possibility of cloning, cultivate a cavalier disregard for the tiny but significant faults introduced by the day you blast the building-blocks of life with electric current or soak them in chemical baths, and you have a limitless range of possibilities for disaster - long before you ever get near human cloning.

It is not the animal welfare that bothers me most. Dolly will have a more comfortable life than her cousins who take their chances out on the fell with the foxes. Early cloned animals will be well looked after, simply because they will be so staggeringly expensive. As the price comes down, and identical herds and flocks are commonplace, their lives will probably be no different from those of ordinary farm animals (which is to say that

if they are in the hands of a welfare-minded farmer they will live decently and die humanely, and if they are in more intensive units God help them). Possibly - probably - being genetically identical groups they will be more prone to disease, and not give the farmer the usual sporting chance that an epidemic will spare some resistant specimens. But even that is not the main problem.

If we do prefer the illusory control of cloning to the glorious gamble of life, we will be interfering with nature in a way far more straightforward and dangerous than ever before. We do not know what is coming, even to our own species. A modern parent might demand a lean baby with computer skills and an aptitude for figure-skating and GCSE, and so unwillingly bear a some future, post-cataclysmic generation which desperately needs stout hardy labourers to dig and carry water. Diversity, in all living things, is our best hope.

Never mind, I pin my faith on the well-known ability of sheep to frustrate their owners. I would like to think that Dolly will hop out of her pen in a few months' time, find a handsome low-bred Highland ram and teach us a bit of humility.

Libby Purves

It looks at us out of the dark eyes of Dolly the lamb is a subtler, more sombre threat. Already, by modern breeding methods and the widespread use of artificial insemination, we have narrowed the gene pool of farm animals to an alarming degree. Admittedly, all farm stock are the product of patient centuries of deliberate breeding, but remember that until this century, a bull's or boar's range was limited to how far he or his day's mate could run. Now a prize bull may have his sperm flown all round the world and produce ten thousand offspring in a year.

But at least they are all by different cows: this gives some chance to

genetic diversity, and slows down the process of narrowing the species. Cloning will speed it up. The best animals will be more able to crowd out the rest.

"So the fittest will survive?" you say. "So what?" You could argue eloquently for taking the expensive uncertainties out of breeding, and ending the classic frustration of putting two fine animals together and producing a weedy one. You could promise guaranteed herds of BSE-resistant cattle, medically useful sheep, fast racehorses and pigs which produce low-fat bacon. If the demand is there, why not meet it without hesitation and let biodiversity go hang?

Because, quite simply, it is not for us to end evolution. The history of living creatures is a story of change and adaptation. Normal reproduction ensures that the genetic kaleidoscope is shaken every single time. Besides, the qualities which we value today, may not be those the future needs. Already some farmers have been compelled to turn to previously scorned rare breeds - preserved by enthusiasts - to freshen up inbred stock. Others have found that circumstances change when the fashion for indoor reared pigs began to give way to free-range ones in fields, farmers sought out old-fashioned, hardy bloodlines that would flourish out in the cold. Needs constantly change, the very climate may be changing. There may be future diseases to which only some breed hitherto scorned as uneconomic can supply the biological answer. Or it may be that the next level of excellence in some creature has yet to manifest itself and will turn up by accident. It has happened often enough.

If we do prefer the illusory control of cloning to the glorious gamble of life, we will be interfering with nature in a way far more straightforward and dangerous than ever before. We do not know what is coming, even to our own species. A modern parent might demand a lean baby with computer skills and an aptitude for figure-skating and GCSE, and so unwillingly bear a some future, post-cataclysmic generation which desperately needs stout hardy labourers to dig and carry water. Diversity, in all living things, is our best hope.

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It's now or never for Kohl
Anatole Kaletsky
says delay is fatal to monetary union

In doubt, why not procrastinate? Monetary union is becoming a nightmare for every politician in Europe, including the only one who really matters - Helmut Kohl. So will Germany simply decide that it should be delayed? To delay may be tempting, but it is easier said than done.

Helmut Kohl believes in "European construction" with a passion and sincerity that most people in Britain simply cannot understand. The innuendos in the German press about "the Jew" Malcolm Rifkind suggested one respectable, if bizarre, reason for Herr Kohl's passion. As another European statesman of Jewish extraction once remarked: "Kohl fears that somewhere in the heart of Germany still lurks a hint of the old madness. That's why he is so determined. When he says that Germany must be committed to Europe he means it in the sense of commitment to an asylum." Allowing for rhetorical overstatement, this seems a reasonable analysis of Herr Kohl's repeated admissions that monetary union is "a matter of war or peace for Europe".

The trouble is that the Maastricht treaty - the legal instrument by which Germany was to be humanely committed to Europe - is failing in two important ways. It is obviously failing to provide a sensible blueprint for economic management in Europe. Instead of carrying the European economies into monetary union on the crest of a wave of prosperity and social cohesion, the Maastricht conditions are pushing both Germany and France back into a dark age of mass unemployment. The treaty also seems to be failing in its other main objective. With Germany and France no longer certain to satisfy all the criteria, there is no watertight legal pretext for keeping Italy, Spain and other unstable countries out of the single currency zone in the first round.

So what is to be done? Why not stick to the strict interpretation of the Maastricht targets and forget about the treaty's timetable, which states that monetary union must go ahead in 1999? Superficially this looks a comfortable solution for all concerned. On closer inspection, however, it would satisfy no one and could give Europe the worse of all possible worlds. Consider what would happen. Herr Kohl would announce that Germany would not go ahead with monetary union until all of the Maastricht conditions are fully satisfied. In Germany's case this would mean reducing the budget deficit to below 3 per cent of gross domestic product, from the likely level of 3.2 to 3.5 per cent in 1997.

If the Government stuck unrelentingly to its fiscal retrenchment and the economy grew reasonably well in the next two years, then there would be a reasonable chance of fulfilling the targets in 1998 and going ahead with the single currency by January 2000. But if these two conditions were satisfied, then there would be no problem in going ahead on the present timetable, in 1999. The treaty explicitly says that judgments should be made not only about actual deficits, but also about "planned deficits", and should consider whether any excess in the deficit is "temporary and remains close to the reference level [of 3 per cent]".

If the delay were announced at a time when the German economy was faltering, the deficit was overshooting and the Government was finding it impossible to push through spending cuts and higher taxes, financial markets and German voters would expect an easing of fiscal policy and assume a weakening of the commitment to the Maastricht targets in the foreseeable future. And once the deadline for monetary union was pushed out beyond the year 2000, it would probably also run beyond the career expectations of Herr Kohl and the generation of monetary union enthusiasts who now dominate German politics.

Once the timetable set down in the Maastricht treaty and solemnly ratified by all Europe's national parliaments became a dead letter, any future timetables or promises would become worthless. Memoriae would be revived of the Werner Plan to create a single currency for Europe as early as 1970.

While such a collapse of confidence in the project might not matter much for Germany, it would provoke financial crises in Italy, Spain, Belgium and probably France. The French would recall that their biggest negotiating triumph at Maastricht was winning Herr Kohl's agreement to the strict deadline of January 1999 - against the furious objections of his own Finance Ministry and the Bundesbank. Only in exchange for this deadline did France give in to the German demands for an independent European central bank. If the Germans abandoned the deadline, France would reopen every aspect of the deal. The single currency process would unravel, leaving Germans suspicious of Europe and Europe suspicious of Germany.

In sum, to abandon the Maastricht deadline in the conditions of economic adversity would be to abandon the whole project of monetary union. Helmut Kohl would do almost anything to avoid such a decision; especially as the coda to his political career.

Third leader

SUPPORT for the Referendum Party has been pledged by *Third Way*, the favourite bathtime reading of former National Front activists. The magazine, which is run by NF members who left because of ideological differences, swings foursquare behind Sir James Goldsmith's lot.

Third Way, which calls itself "the voice of the radical centre", is a nationalist and culturally separatist rag run by Patrick Harrington, formerly a big banana with the NF. Its latest issue has a cover picture of Goldsmith in ruminative pose, and an extended discussion of why *Third Way* bulldogs should vote.

"I believe that Sir James Goldsmith is a sincere man and many of his views are complementary to our own," says Harrington, who had to attend lectures on his own as a student at North London Polytechnic because his classmates found his extreme right-wing views so objectionable.

Harrington has not had any contact with the Referendum Party since the middle of last year, when he was told his request for an

says an ungrateful Referendum Party spokesman.

• *No cushy merchant bank jobs or cosy peerage for the Chancellor*, Kenneth Clarke, when his time in high office ends. In an interview on the Oxford University student radio Oxygen, Clarke accepts comparisons with that other left-leaning, loose-tongued Tory, Sir Edward Heath: "I expect to be in the House of Commons until潘 so old and decrepit that I can't stay any longer," he says, "or until my constituents sling me out."

And farewell

STUFFED among the silhouettes and trouser-suits in the front row seats of Tomasz Starzewski's fashion show yesterday were the comedians Hale and Pace. Dressed in lurid purple sweatshirts and awkward suits, they were working as Starzewski's assistants for six months, while they make a documentary on fashion.

The comedians, who is the darling of such high society dames as Maya Flick, is confident that his charges' dress will improve under his care. "I have told them that black is best for the shows. I'll be assessing them in six months."

sign Secretary's visit, the event ended up running a deficit.

• *Some hang-dog figures made their way from Earls Court to Westminster last night, as members of the Commons all-party music group left the Brit Awards early*. The 13 Tories, led by Nigel Evans, MP for Ribble Valley, were hoping some improvised pairing could be arranged for the evening. No, said the Labour lot - the whole party had to troop back, missing the climax of the show.

Tight schedule

ADAM COOPER, one of the most promising pairs ofights at the Royal Ballet, is to leave. Cooper has recently been dancing the lead in Matthew Bourne's terrific, all-male *Swan Lake* in the West End. Now that Bourne is taking the show to Los Angeles for eight weeks and possibly on to Broadway, Cooper wants to go with him. When he asked for leave from Covent Garden, however, said no, Cooper said goodbye.

"It must have been a hard decision to leave the Royal Ballet to undertake the LA season with us," says Bourne. For Cooper, however, it may be for the best. He has been



P.H.S



"So you want lower taxes, better healthcare and a Spice Girl to drive you to the polling station?"

hitting of the barre and has his head set on an acting career. LA could be the perfect platform.

• *Robert Fox, the producer, is having trouble casting a London version of the Broadway hit Masterclass*. "I don't understand why, but we can't find an actor with all the right credentials: looks, acting ability, a great voice and who can hold up opposite Patti Lupone as Maria Callas."

P.H.S



SOUTHERN DISCOMFORT

Nato needs France to pull back from impossible demands

In 1966 General de Gaulle pulled France out of Nato's integrated military command and expelled the alliance's headquarters from the French capital; in doing so he set a pattern for Western defence which lasted almost 30 years. France maintained a proud, expensive and "independent" system of nuclear and conventional defence. The allies were forced to have France as a "free rider", effectively protected in case of attack but disconnected from the intimate military network which makes Nato tick.

A generation later, closing the gap between France and Nato remains a difficult problem. President Chirac made a brave and sweeping first move in December 1995 by announcing that France was re-entering several Nato bodies, would reintegrate completely if Nato became sufficiently "Europeanised" and was reshaping its armed forces for a new century and new post-Cold War threats. By then, the late President Mitterrand's dream of creating a European military alliance independent of America and based on the EU already lay battered beyond hope of recovery. But President Chirac went further than recognising reality; he acknowledged the legitimacy and centrality of Nato.

This strategy was bold and constructive. But its tactics were inept. American officers automatically hold Nato's supreme military command and the naval Atlantic and Mediterranean commands. A European holds the post of Deputy Supreme Commander and civilian Secretary-General. President Chirac foolishly insisted that Nato could not be considered "Europeanised" unless the Mediterranean command was turned over to a European. In wartime, the assets deployed by the Commander in Naples consist mostly of the US Sixth Fleet and American aircraft based in Italy. The American Administration, backed by Congress, has been wholly consistent in rejecting the French demand as unworkable. Schemes to rotate or split the command, however well meant, made no impact.

FIND THE GAPS

The Lib Dems must bite the hands that will feed them

The Liberal Democrats have long been used to serving niche markets. Their difficulty is that the niche keeps changing. It used to be between the two main parties, but as Labour has snuggled up to the Conservatives, the only space left is on the Left. Yesterday Malcolm Bruce, the party's Treasury spokesman, promised to raise the basic rate of income tax by 1p, to set a new top rate of 50 per cent for incomes over £100,000, and to raise the starting threshold to take more people out of tax altogether. As a result, 30 per cent of adults would be worse off, 70 per cent would be better off and see no difference. Mr Bruce's gamble is that enough of the latter will be seduced by the promise of extra money for education.

It would help him if the money were not to be spread so thinly. This £2 billion a year would finance nursery education for all three and four-year-olds, smaller class sizes, more books and equipment, and schools "fit to teach in". That is some programme. Given how friendly the party's education spokesman, Don Foster, has become with the teachers, it would be odd if they did not demand some of the cash for themselves.

This is all theoretical, of course. Every five years or so, the Liberal Democrats have to go through the charade of pretending that they intend to form the next government. Much is unpredictable in politics, but one thing can be said for certain: the next Secretary of State for Education will not be Mr Foster. So the minutiae of Lib Dem policy are academic. The question is: how many seats will they win at the next election, and will they become Labour's partner?

NATURAL ALLIES

The Israeli President's state visit is as welcome as overdue

President Weizman's arrival today on the first state visit ever paid to Britain by an Israeli leader is overdue recognition of the long association between the two countries. It was the Balfour Declaration of 1917 that gave the Zionists momentum to establish a Jewish homeland. As the mandate authority, Britain was crucially, if bloodily, involved in the struggle for Israeli independence. Much early support, as well as several of the country's political leaders such as Abba Eban, came from Britain. And British influence in the Middle East has been vital in the many attempts, ultimately successful, to break the cycle of violence and establish a dialogue between Israel and its neighbours.

Yet for years relations at the highest level remained cool. There was lingering resentment at the terrorist violence that forced the British out of Palestine; on the Israeli side there was suspicion that the Foreign Office allowed a pro-Arab bias to colour its dealings in the Middle East. Israelis were hurt by the failure of any member of the Royal Family to pay a visit, despite numerous visits to Arab countries and reciprocal hospitality at Buckingham Palace. The acute tensions in the region not only made security a real concern, but they inhibited the spontaneous welcome essential to any successful state visit.

In the past four years, such inhibitions have been melted by Israel's courageous embrace of the peace process. The arms embargo, imposed in 1992, was lifted in 1994

By the time of Madeleine Albright's fruitless meetings on this issue in Paris last week, matters had deteriorated in France. The political atmosphere has been soured by the approaching rendezvous with the European single currency. The government is unpopular because of shrinking expenditure. Gaullists are frightened; quite rightly, that monetary union usurps the autonomy of the French State. The belated release of a Franco-German document promising talks between Paris and Bonn on the future of the French nuclear deterrent triggered a cascade of complaint: MPs of both Right and Left argued that France was making concessions everywhere and gaining nothing in return.

The Nato commands matter because retaining American engagement and re-engaging France are both vital. If Europe's nations are to develop any collective capacity to handle security emergencies beyond last-ditch territorial defence, that capacity will have to be organised in the alliance. For that, the alliance must include France. American threats to develop a "European defence industry" inside Nato but without France are bluff. If President Chirac feels obliged to march French officers out of Nato, the informal co-operation which has underpinned deployment in Bosnia will be over.

Compromise must be found. Since the question of Nato's Southern Command is deadlocked, attention must switch to enhancing the powers of Nato's Deputy Supreme Commander, who has been promised command of any operation using purely European forces. If America means to help France to rejoin the alliance, Washington will have to show that a senior French officer can hold this job and that it will amount to real power and influence. If France sticks to its unattainable and unrealistic demand for the Southern Command, it will signal that the country's leaders are less serious than was previously believed about taking a full part in Europe's emerging defence network. That would be a bad blow on all fronts.

In any case involving criminal acts by the police, all the officers can be prosecuted in the criminal courts for perverting justice and their chief officers sued in the civil courts for malicious prosecution.

Criminal prosecutions have proved ineffective. Officers are rarely convicted and the only real sanction is the curtailment of funds, so as to persuade chief officers not to allow a culture of tolerance of police misbehaviour to continue. The Commissioner should, in the Thompson case, have been sent away with a flea in his ear and told it was up to him to set his house in order.

So long as police chiefs defend cases where their officers have misbehaved, and not only are the officers not punished but there is no subsequent apology or recognition by their chiefs of their misbehaviour, then – unless there is some swinging financial comeback on those running the police – I am afraid that the exhortation in your leader column today that the Bridgewater miscarriage should never be allowed to happen again will not be achieved.

Yours sincerely,

LOUIS SCHAFFER,
10 King's Bench Walk, Temple, EC4.
February 22.

Scale of awards against police

From Mr Louis Schaffer

Sir, It is somewhat ironical that, in the same week that the Court of Appeal (Civil Division) cuts the level of exemplary damages to be awarded in actions involving police misconduct ("Thompson v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis", reports, February 20), there commenced in the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) the appeal of three men deprived of their liberty for 18 years as the result of deliberate fabrication of evidence by the police.

Lord Woolf ruled that the absolute maximum ever to be awarded for exemplary damages, which are punitive, should be £50,000 and then only if an officer of the rank of superintendent or above was directly involved.

My doubts on the reasonableness of that ruling were confirmed on the following day by reading of the Bridgewater case. By the Master of the Rolls' ruling this case would merit only £25,000 exemplary damages, since no superintendent was involved.

With the greatest respect to Lord Woolf, whom I greatly admire, I believe that his rationale – that it is a windfall for the person wronged and that it would result in funds not being available to be spent by the police in ways to benefit the public – is misguided and sends the wrong message. I doubt whether the Hickey cousins and Jimmy Robinson or, indeed, anyone who has read their case would, in fairness, characterise such an award as a windfall.

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Yours sincerely,
LOUIS SCHAFFER,
10 King's Bench Walk, Temple, EC4.
February 22.

Animal traps

From the Acting High Commissioner for Canada

Sir, The full-page advertisement in your issue of February 10, paid for by a number of organisations concerned with animal welfare and attacking the proposal by the European Commission to accept the Agreement on Humane Trapping Standards, should not mislead your readers.

Simply banning all types of leghold traps, which the advertisement advocates, is an arbitrary and ill-considered response to legitimate animal welfare concerns. Rather than focusing on these traps, it has always been Canada's position that the real solution is to establish international standards on humane trapping that cover all situations where wild animals are caught.

The agreement, initiated in December 1996, between Canada, Russia and the European Commission provides that opportunity. For the first time, there is a practical international framework within which real improvements in the welfare of trapped animals could be achieved. Such an agreement would require the banning of all traps that do not meet the agreed scientific standards, including conventional steel-jawed leghold restraining traps and other legholding devices.

An agreement of this kind would be a significant step forward for animal welfare. Rejection of it would be a missed opportunity to improve trapping practices, both internationally and in the EU.

Yours sincerely,
TOM MACDONALD,
Canadian High Commission,
Macdonald House,
1 Grosvenor Square, W1
February 18.

Comprehensive cover

From Mr Wolfram Waldner

Sir, Clause 29 of the terms and conditions of *The Times* Lufthansa flight offer (February 22) excludes liability for failure to comply in the event of weather conditions, fire, flood, strike, hurricane, industrial dispute, war, hostilities, political unrest, riot, civil commotion, inevitable accidents, acts of God...

It seems to me that there is very little room for the Almighty left in this catalogue of mishaps.

Yours sincerely,
WOLFRAM WALDNER,
20 Grove Street,
Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.
February 22.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

'Majorite rigidity' on devolution

From Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, OM

Sir, I agree with those who say that in his speech last Thursday, Mr Blair did not answer the West Lothian question (letters, February 15, 21). This is not surprising as it is fundamentally unanswerable. Mr Dalyell shot a powerful arrow in the 1970s.

The point was equally unanswerable in relation to Irish Home Rule. In 1868 Gladstone first proposed that the analogous question should be responded to by retaining Irish members at Westminster "for imperial purposes only". Then, when the 1886 Bill came to be drafted, he was persuaded, mainly by Cabinet colleagues, that they ought to be out. By May of that year he was again persuaded that they ought to be in, and announced his willingness to amend the Bill accordingly.

Joseph Chamberlain, the Bill's decisive opponent, moved in precisely the opposite direction. In January he thought the worst possible solution was a parliament in Dublin and Irish members at Westminster. By June he made their exclusion from the imperial parliament his major argument against the Bill.

The 1893 Bill, on the other hand, began with the proposed retention of 80 Irish members at Westminster, but with them excluded from voting on purely English or Scottish questions. The frontier however proved indefinable, and was abandoned (in favour of giving them full rights) at the committee stage.

There are therefore very respectable precedents – indeed the two successive most dominating parliamentarians of a classic quarter century in the history of the House of Commons – for perplexity on the issue.

This is far from saying that the intricacies of the West Lothian question provide an adequate excuse for immobilism towards the wishes of the non-English components of the British Isles. Can anyone now doubt that with the defeat of Gladstone's home rule Bills there perished the last hope of Anglo-Irish reconciliation within a

British polity?

I do not know whether, had one of these Bills gone through, a loose union would have held. Already it had 200 years of history against it. But I am certain that with their defeat the opposite became inevitable, and has brought in its train much danger and destruction.

The Anglo-Scottish union has been a great deal more securely anchored. But I am for the first time persuaded that, if a Conservative government were to be returned and were to maintain an attitude of uncompromising negativity towards Scotland, and were at the same time to move further to a little-England chauvinism towards Europe, the 1707 union would be in danger.

The pull of the great success of Ireland in Europe should not be underestimated. It is not merely the national income per head is already above the British, a concept inconceivable a couple of decades ago, but psychologically and nationally liberating in the context of Ireland's popularity and consequent influence, beyond its natural weight in European councils.

I consequently believe that if Majorite rigidity were to persist there is a real danger of Scottish independence within ten years, an outcome which I would regard as a grave misfortune for those on both sides of the border.

Compared with this the West Lothian question, neatly unanswerable although it is, falls into insignificance. The awkwardness would have had to be accepted if Irish home rule had saved the entity of the British Isles. It has been accepted by successive Conservative governments for Northern Ireland. It had better be accepted for Scotland (perhaps with some reduction in the number of Scottish seats at Westminster) if 290 years of mutually beneficial union is not to put at grave risk.

Yours faithfully,
ROY JENKINS,
House of Lords.
February 24.

Sex Offenders Bill

From the Director of Liberty

Sir, You reported on February 20 that the number of people to be placed on the sex offenders register by the proposed Sex Offenders Bill threatens its viability. Liberty has been concerned for a considerable time that the register will be unworkable. Blanket registration of sex offenders will mean that the police will not be able to effectively exercise control, and it should be noted that no extra resources are being made available. Additionally, the current proposals will include some consensual gay offences and other individuals who pose no risk to children.

Surely the answer to the problem is the one proposed some time ago by Liberty in its response to this Bill – that automatic inclusion on the register should be dropped. Instead we propose that, at the time of sentencing, the judge should decide whether or not offenders are a risk to children and only if they are should they be put on the register. The judge will know the details of the facts of the case as well as the previous convictions of the offender and is in the best position to make this assessment.

In sentencing sex offenders the judge will have psychiatric and other reports which would help with this assessment and could also decide at the same time how long the offender should be on the register.

Such a mechanism would not only protect those who are no risk to children from being on the register but also ensure that precious police resources are targeted towards those who are most dangerous.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN WADHAM,
Director, Liberty,
21 Tabard Street, SE1
February 20.

Dickens statue

From Mrs Sara Lane

Sir, Professor Tony Pointon, chairman of the Charles Dickens fan club at Portsmouth University, appears to think that because the other wishes Dickens expressed in his will have already been denied him, this enables his admirers to contravene yet another firmly-expressed wish by erecting a statue in Portsmouth, where the author was born in 1812 and which he left as a toddler in 1814 (report, February 18).

But two wrongs do not make a right. The International Dickens Fellowship and the Dickens Fellowship, as well as Professor Pointon, all suggest that Dickens wanted his expressed wishes to be disregarded. But what grounds do they have for this?

Is it not more probable that Dickens (like other people who make wills) meant exactly what he said in his? As well as disliking humbug and hypocrisy, Dickens had something of a distaste for images and, since the secretary of the Dickens Fellowship invokes *Martin Chuzzlewit*, is it not

worth noting that Dickens's illustrator Phiz consistently depicts Pecksniff surrounded by busts and portraits of himself?

Yours faithfully,
SARA LANE,
6 Montagu Square, W1.
February 19.

From Mr C. C. Dickens

Sir, As a great-great-grandson, who can claim to be head of the Dickens family in the direct line, I am concerned about the proposed statue. Charles Dickens specifically wrote in his will: "on no account make me the subject of any monument, memorial or testimonial whatever."

The International Dickens Fellowship is well admired and old-established but I feel it should adhere to Charles Dickens's expressed wishes and oppose Portsmouth's decision.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER CHARLES
DICKENS,
The Old Rectory, Spofforth,
Harrogate, North Yorkshire.
February 19.

Women in Church

From Mr David Gedge

Sir, The Reverend M. E. Percival (letter, February 19) asks how many men have been appointed minor canons six months after their ordination as priest. Here at Brecon Cathedral it has long been customary for deacons to be appointed minor canons, a year before their ordination to the priesthood.

Some seem to think that a minor canonry is a senior position but, at least here in Wales, a minor canon is often no more than a curate attached to a cathedral.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GEDGE
(Organist, Brecon Cathedral),
Gwth Cottage,
20 Pendre, Brecon, Powys.
February 19.

Surname usage

From Mr Bruce Andrews

Sir, The subtleties of personal nomenclature prevailed in business as well as academia (letter, February 22).

When my father was a junior manager in the 1930s he was addressed by the company's chairman and majority shareholder as Andrews. When he became a senior manager the chairman called him Mr Andrews.

On his advancement to managing director in the late 1940s he was called Andrews once more, a form the chairman used for friends as well as servants and junior employees.

When my father became chairman, the ex-chairman – his son Jack, a form he used for a few chosen equals.

My father relished these changes as milestones in his advancement.

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE ANDREWS,
4 Warford Close,
Cranley Road,
Guildford, Surrey.
February 23.

OBITUARIES

EMILY HAHN

Emily Hahn, American writer and adventurer, died on February 18 aged 92. She was born on January 14, 1905.

In the depths of the Great Depression, Emily Hahn left a \$25-a-week teaching job in New York to run off to the Belgian Congo in search of adventure. A concerned male colleague cautioned her to 'be careful': Africa was no place for a woman.

'I still don't know what he meant,' Hahn told an interviewer many years later. 'Careful' was never part of her vocabulary; given a choice, she always chose the uncertain path.

Hahn, who for many years lived partly in Britain with her husband, the historian Charles R. Boxer, was an adventurer, a feminist, the author of more than fifty books, and a prolific and longstanding contributor to *The New Yorker* magazine. She came to prominence in the 1940s through her writings about China. She had bestsellers on both sides of the Atlantic with *The Soong Sisters* (1941), a biography of the Middle Kingdom's 'first family' of the pre-revolutionary era, and *China to Me* (1944), a candid and irreverent memoir which chronicled Hahn's freewheeling wartime adventures in the Far East.

Hahn wrote in an extraordinary variety of genres: biography, history, humour, women's issues, travel, cooking, children's literature, fiction and natural history. Her refusal to be pigeonholed may help to explain why, apart from the success of her China books, she never found the mass audience she deserved.

If she was bitter about this, it was never apparent, though she sometimes recalled something her friend and mentor Rebecca West once told her: 'If you and I had been born male and had written what we've written, we'd be a lot better-known.'

Although Hahn's informal, personalised literary style was distinctly hers, it was also the quintessential *New Yorker* voice. During her 68-year career as a contributor, she was one of a handful of writers who worked for all four editors of the magazine — Harold Ross, William Shawn, Robert Gottlieb and Tina Brown.

Emily Hahn never wanted to be a writer. She was born into a Jewish-German family in St Louis, Missouri, the seventh of eight children of whom only six survived infancy. Her father, Isaac Newton Hahn, a hardware salesman, was an atheist who read passages from the Bible to his children so that he could point out inconsistencies. Her mother, Hannah, née Schoen, was a committed suffragette who rode a bicycle while wearing bloomers and persisted in her career aspirations even after marriage. The Hahn children



were encouraged to write and think critically from an early age.

In 1922 Emily Hahn caused a furor when she was the first woman to enrol in the faculty of mining engineering at the University of Wisconsin. She had planned to study English literature, but changed her mind when a professor told her that women were 'incapable of grasping mechanics or higher mathematics'.

After graduating, Hahn worked in turn as an oil geologist, a greetings-card writer, and as a guide on horseback expeditions into the New Mexico wilderness. In 1928 she moved to New York to begin writing seriously. Her first *New Yorker* pieces, published in the spring of 1929, were actually letters to her brother-in-law in Chicago.

Without her knowledge, he removed the salutations and submitted them to *The New Yorker*.

Hahn's first book appeared in 1930. *Seductio ad Absurdum: The Principles and Practices of Seduction — A Beginner's Handbook*, was a satirical look at male-female relationships.

In 1931, she ran away to the Belgian Congo, where she spent two years at a Red Cross medical outpost working among African pygmies. She wrote about her experiences in a lively travel book called *Congo Solo: Misadventures Two Degrees North* (1933) and the novel *With Naked Foot* (1934), which took a critical look at European exploitation of Africa and its native population. Both books were in some ways ahead of their time, and neither

brought the breakthrough she craved. The same was true of her novel *Affair* (1935), which dealt with alienated youth and the question of abortion.

In the spring of 1935 Hahn ran away again, this time to the Far East. She spent four years in Shanghai, where she scandalised the European community by becoming the concubine of a Chinese poet named Simin Zau. It was through Zau that she met Communist revolutionaries such as Mao Zedong and Zhou Enlai, and the Soong sisters, about whom she later wrote. She also became addicted to opium.

On the eve of the Pacific war she created yet another scandal by falling in love with Major Charles Boxer, a married British officer who headed Army intelligence in Hong Kong. A few weeks before Pearl Harbor, Hahn gave birth to Boxer's child, a daughter they named Carol.

When Boxer was wounded in the attack on Hong Kong and subsequently became a PoW, Hahn convinced Japanese officials she was Eurasian, so as to remain free to carry food parcels to Boxer and other starving PoWs. She also got involved in underground relief work.

Hahn and her daughter were repatriated to the US in a 1943 exchange of prisoners. After the war she married Boxer. They subsequently had another daughter, Amanda, who lives and works in London as an actress.

From the late 1940s onwards the Boxers maintained an unconventional marriage: he lived near Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, while she settled in New York and joined the staff of *The New Yorker*. Each summer she travelled to Britain to be with her husband for 91 days — the maximum residency period allowable before she was required to pay British taxes.

Throughout her years at *The New Yorker*, Hahn was one of the magazine's most prolific writers. She often acted as a roving correspondent, filing reports that were as far-flung as they were eclectic: Hahn wrote about everything from angels and rabbis to diamonds and maharajahs.

In her later career, she wrote several books about zoology. Apes were one of her favorite topics; she kept pet gibbons in Hong Kong and Shanghai, where she created a stir by outfitting her simian companion, Mr Mills, in a tailored mink suit.

Emily Hahn went to her *New Yorker* office each working day until just a few weeks before her death. She continued to be an occasional contributor to that magazine and to others. Her most recent article, about her daughter Amanda's dog, appears in the current issue of the British publication *Dogs Today*.

Hahn was survived by her husband and her two daughters.

There was a shortage of teaching staff as the younger

ALAN ELLIOT-SMITH

Alan Elliot-Smith, CBE, Headmaster of Cheltenham College, 1940-51, died on February 10 aged 92. He was born on June 30, 1904.

A NOTABLE headmaster, Alan Elliot-Smith played a leading part in the liberalisation of traditional public school education. As Headmaster of Cheltenham College during and after the Second World War he brought about reforms in customs remaining from the last century. He was among the first to stop the caning of boys by senior school boys and tried to replace imposed discipline by self-discipline.

Known to his friends simply as Elliot, Alan Guy Elliot-Smith spent all his adult life in education. After Charterhouse and Oriel College, Oxford, where he read modern languages, he was appointed an assistant master at Harrow, where he remained for 15 years. His subjects were languages and literature and, although he did not take part in team games, he played tennis and fives. He tried to broaden horizons, taking parties of boys abroad in the holidays and, for several years, he was a committed member of the Harrow Urban District Council.

While at Harrow he married Ruth Kittermaster, whose friendliness and small, brisk person complemented her more imposing husband. Even when young, Elliot-Smith had a commanding presence tall and well-built, with a high-bridged nose and sharply inquiring eyes. He was clearly headmaster material, but when chosen as such by Cheltenham College it was found that he had never been confirmed in the Church of England, and this had to be attended to before he could be named as headmaster in 1940.

Immediately, he faced problems peculiar to wartime, with the help of an outstanding bursar, Rollo Pelly. Cheltenham College had been evacuated to Shrewsbury and had to be returned to its own buildings. There were shortages of food and clothing, so Elliot-Smith dressed his boys in boiler suits and introduced communal catering.

Elliot-Smith's many reforms and much-needed modernisation ran foul of the Old Cheltonian Society then dominated by a peppery retired major-general. He waged a ride and damaging war against the headmaster, until rebuked by a more senior Old Cheltonian, General Sir Alan Cunningham, who told him: 'When your name gets in the papers, I will take some notice of you. Until then, I should be glad if you would dry up.'

Five years after the end of the war, Elliot-Smith was regarded as a high-flyer who would probably move to one of



the major public schools, or an Oxford college. So his resignation in 1951 and his next choice of employment came as a shock.

At the urging of the British Council, he became headmaster of an Egyptian version of the English public school, Victoria College at Maadi, outside Cairo. Having no children of his own, Elliot-Smith had been feeling restless, wanted a change and saw the job of educating the future leaders of the Middle East as a worthwhile challenge.

The Elliot-Smiths moved all their belongings — furniture, pictures and books — to Egypt in 1952, the year of the anti-British riots in Cairo arising from tensions over the continued British occupation of the Suez Canal Zone. But he persevered and his efforts to promote Anglo-Egyptian relations led to his appointment as CBE. Then came the Suez crisis and the Elliot-Smiths, together with the other expatriates, were summarily expelled. Allowed to take one suitcase each, they had to abandon and lose all their belongings, including his library of four thousand books.

On his return, Elliot-Smith sat on various educational bodies and for a year was the West Africa Committee's representative in Nigeria before being appointed Headmaster of Markham College in Lima, Peru, in 1960. Three years later he returned to England and bought a house in the suburbs of Eastbourne. Here he spent his long retirement, taking up book-binding, sometimes visited by his former pupils and cheered by the positive, cheerful attitude of his wife, who survives him.

SIR FRANK HARTLEY



Sir Frank Hartley, CBE, Dean of the School of Pharmacy, University of London, 1962-76, died on January 26 aged 86. He was born on January 5, 1911.

AMONG his many notable achievements as a pharmacist, Frank Hartley supervised the early development of the contraceptive pill. As director of research at British Drug Houses he guided the development of the first pill to clinical assessment, though side-effects prevented its being marketed.

There was hardly a facet of pharmacy his career did not touch. He was of an age when entry to the field was through a three-year apprenticeship and evening study for a diploma as 'chemist and druggist'. He then enrolled for the higher diploma of 'pharmaceutical chemist'. He achieved the latter in 1930 and registered as a pharmacist in 1932.

His bias was towards chemistry and combined an appointment as a demonstrator at the School of Pharmacy, then in Bloomsbury Square, with study at Birkbeck College. He took a first in chemistry in 1934 and a PhD in 1940.

The route to higher degrees in pharmacy is much simplified now, but the long haul from apprenticeship to doctorate, achieved by working all the hours that were available on little money, gave the pharmaceutical scientists of Hartley's generation untried

valued experience. It perhaps explains why, at the young age of 29, Hartley was able to join the Dutch firm of Organon as chief chemist of its operation in Britain.

Organon is a major pharmaceutical manufacturer of steroid hormones. Hartley's experience with the firm was later to lead to work with British Drug Houses and his involvement with the earliest generation of oral contraceptives.

War brought a need for greater quantities of antibiotics and led to the formation of the Therapeutic Research Corporation to co-ordinate efforts of the pharmaceuticals in antibiotic production; Hartley was appointed its secretary and secretary to the Ministry of Supply's General Penicillin Committee.

At the end of the war he was appointed director of research of British Drug Houses, where he did his work on the contraceptive pill. He was a member of the Committee on Safety of Drugs, the predecessor of the Committee on Safety of Medicine.

Hartley also made significant contributions to those essential but little understood compendiums of standards of pharmaceuticals such as the *British Pharmacopoeia* ('the BP'), known throughout the world as the repository and guardian of standards of purity and quality of drugs and medicines. He was for a time chairman of the BP Commission. On the European Pharmacopoeia he made

considerable inroads into modernising its approach to the development of standards suitable for the 20th century.

In 1962 he moved from industry to academia, succeeding Professor Linnell as Dean of the School of Pharmacy of the University of London. His forte latterly was as a committee man, but one who could shape events, especially as a forceful, well prepared chairman.

He was appointed deputy vice-chancellor of the University in 1973 and in 1976-78 was Vice-Chancellor. He was knighted for his services to pharmacy in 1977, having been appointed CBE in 1970. He received numerous other honours, fellowships and honorary degrees.

Hartley's wife Lydia recently predeceased him. He leaves two sons: one, Peter, a canon in the Church of England, and the other, Frank, now Vice-Chancellor of Cranfield.

After retirement from university service, Hartley still gave of his time and expertise in an elder statesman capacity to the university and its colleges. He maintained his interest in the School of Pharmacy and in the activities of his successor deans. Nerves at the school were jangled in 1982 when a university working party explored its amalgamation with the Chelsea Department of Pharmacy and the relocation of the combined operation to the Tooting site of St George's Hospital and Medical School. Hartley was very much for the marriage, but the working party decided against it.

Hartley's wife Lydia recently predeceased him. He leaves two sons: one, Peter, a canon in the Church of England, and the other, Frank, now Vice-Chancellor of Cranfield.

THE POLISH REVOLUTION.

(FROM OUR VIENNA CORRESPONDENT)

VIENNA, FEB. 21.

On the 13th inst. some Cossacks, who were in pursuit of two mounted Polish fugitives, violated the Austrian frontier near Ulanov, a small town to the north-east of Rzeszow, the capital of a Galician 'circle' of the same name. One of the fugitives, a Roman Catholic priest, fell from his horse, and was wounded by the Cossacks, but both he and his companion managed to reach Ulanov, where they were protected by the local authorities. On the following day a Russian detachment under the command of a captain, appeared at Ulanov, which is about three English miles from the frontier, and demanded the immediate extradition of the fugitives. A long and angry discussion ensued, and the matter ended by the Russian soldiers being escorted to the frontier by some Austrian gendarmes and Custom-house officers.

It is the custom of the Austro-Hungarian army to demand the surrender of fugitives, and the Cossacks, who had been sent to arrest the fugitives, were compelled to do so. The fugitives, however, had been protected by the local authorities, and the Russian soldiers were compelled to return to the frontier. The Cossacks, however, were not satisfied with this, and demanded that the fugitives be handed over to the Russian authorities. The local authorities, however, refused to do so, and the Cossacks, who had been sent to arrest the fugitives, were compelled to return to the frontier. The Cossacks, however, were not satisfied with this, and demanded that the fugitives be handed over to the Russian authorities. The local authorities, however, refused to do so, and the Cossacks, who had been sent to arrest the fugitives, were compelled to return to the frontier. The Cossacks, however, were not satisfied with this, and demanded that the fugitives be handed over to the Russian authorities. 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Bartering comeback on the cards in Britain

Tom Maddocks checks out a system that predates cash

WHEN Apex Marketing, the north London publishing and sponsorship group, moved offices at the end of last year, Peter Antell, joint managing director, was extremely reluctant to pull out his chequebook. Instead, he managed to pay for £30,000-worth of office furniture, not to mention the office carpet, through bartering advertising space in the company's publications, such as *The Organiser* (a specialist journal for the hotel and catering industry) and *Seve Ballesteros's Guide to Golf*.

Bartering is older than money itself. For years, companies have fixed up "contra deals" between themselves: a radio station, for instance, might allocate advertising space to a taxi firm in exchange for travel facilities.

Attempts to get over the obvious practical limitations of this informal system have never really got off the ground in this country, but there are signs that this is starting to change and small and medium-sized enterprises appear to be best placed to benefit.

The British bartering market has been shaken up by the arrival of Bartercard, a six-year-old Australian company operating a barter exchange system, which claims to be a world leader with a trade turnover of A\$280 million (£130 million). Member companies, such as Apex, do business with each other using "trade pounds" instead of sterling. These can be exchanged for goods and services from any member of the scheme, such as



"A barter? — how about I give you this in exchange for payment?"

New businesses improve

By RODNEY HOBSON

NEARLY half of small business start-ups are cottage industries, according to the latest quarterly small business report from National Westminster Bank.

About 132,000 owner managers starting up in 1996 used their homes as a business base, the bank calculates. For the first time since the late 1980s, Britain's smallest businesses with a turnover of less than £50,000 reported a significant economic improvement. Even so, the 330,000 businesses of all sizes that were launched last year repre-

sented a drop of 1 per cent on 1995. More than half of start-ups now use a personal computer for their business. This figure increases to 80 per cent for limited companies. Two thirds of the businesses that are run by people who were formerly managers have a computer.

Peter Ibbotson, NatWest's head of small business services, says the cottage industries are increasingly using the Internet for day-to-day contact with the outside world. He says: "Conditions are much tougher

for businesses starting up than in the late 1980s. While the numbers of businesses starting up for the last two years have stabilised, we are still facing a 36 per cent drop in start-up numbers from the beginning of the decade. Experiences of recession, weak consumer demand and uncertainty over the future have all played a role in the overall decline."

"However, this is balanced by the dramatic improvement in the quality of start-up businesses seen recently."

than at retail price. For instance, it would cost a restaurant buying a £2,000 computer system by barter much less to provide £2,000 worth of meals to Bartercard or CBCI members than to pay in cash.

Peter Antell, of Apex, said: "We are effectively trading on marginal cost. I think barter is particularly suitable for high-margin service businesses such as ours. Companies operating in high-turnover but low-margin industries may not be able to make the economics work so easily by the time they have paid the commission."

Bartercard is adding 50 clients a month. It vets applicants before giving them a credit limit, and visits each company to ensure that it can deliver a saleable product or service back into the system.

In the past, many struggling firms have bartered to avoid tax. The clearing house schemes are a way of legitimising something that has often been a part of the black economy. Firms pay VAT (in cash) and tax on transactions as if they were carried out in sterling.

The Federation of Small Businesses has given moves towards bartering a cautious welcome. "Schemes like these will have to build up a large network before they can really work well," Uci Nathan, its London organiser said. "But low turnover and payment difficulties are the biggest problems affecting small companies. Anything that can help solve these has got to be worth exploring."

A guide to franchising, including advice on choosing a business and raising funds, has been produced by Kali Kwik, the print, copy and design company. Moshe Gerstenhaber, Kali Kwik's chairman and founder, says: "I've seen many people achieve personal and business success beyond their wildest dreams." Call 0500 872060.

□ Acas, the conciliation and arbitration service that helps to solve industrial disputes, has published six guidance notes to help small firms to avoid common problems. They cover contracts of employment, grievances, discipline, induction training, recruitment and

absence. They are free from Acas public inquiry points or £1 for cover postage from Acas Reader Ltd, PO Box 16, Earl Shilton, LE9 8ZZ.

□ Aztec, the training and enterprise council for southwest London, is holding a free conference on information technology and small businesses at Sandown Park on March 4. Details from Margo Cooper on 0181 481 2010.

□ Independent businesses that can demonstrate how using mobile phones has improved their business can compete for £5,000 in cash and prizes. For an entry leaflet, call 0956 394959.

□ A three-year trade promotion to stimulate exports of British goods

□ A one-day conference for young

Room at the inn and cash need not be a problem

By TOM MADDOCKS

SIR Michael Wilmot, owner of The Beaufort hotel in Knightsbridge, has been a committed barter fan for years. He has been a member of several international barter networks, including Bartercard and CBCI. The 28-room Beaufort opened in 1986 as one of the first of the new wave of luxury townhouse hotels in London, of which there are now a couple of dozen.

Sir Michael said: "Barter generates extra sales income for us by selling rooms that would otherwise remain empty." The hotel reckons to do about £100,000 of its £1.5 million turnover by barter, making it one of the country's biggest users of the system. He said: "It certainly helps our cashflow. We have bought printing and stationery, magazine advertising, wines and spirits, air travel through barter — you name it."

He finds Americans keenest to snap up bartered rooms at The Beaufort, at £110-£240 a night. He said: "In Britain, barter seems more restricted to smaller companies, while over there it is well established among the Fortune 500 as well. Even General Motors, the biggest of all, is a committed user." But Sir Michael warns small companies to think carefully before plunging into the world of price fix tickets.

"They need to make sure there are things they want to buy through barter, as well as things they can sell. It's not for the financially illiterate."

ger accountants and solicitors in small firms — highlighting skills to build relationships with clients and colleagues — will be held by Center, the central London training and enterprise council, on March 12 and 20. The cost is £150 plus VAT. There is a 50 per cent discount for those who live or work in the Center area. Call Carol O'Connor on 0171 483 2752.

□ Some 200 small companies have improved cash management, cut costs or introduced staff training after help from the UK Benchmarking Index, introduced last autumn at Business Links. Forty firms are now starting to benchmark.

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Executors can claim after settlement

Jameson and Another v Central Electricity Generating Board and Another

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Auld and Sir Patrick Russel

Judgment February 13

A plaintiff accepting a payment "in full and final settlement and satisfaction" of his claim in a personal injury action did not thereby bar his executors from proceeding with a dependency claim after his death against a concurrent tortfeasor.

The release of one concurrent tortfeasor, whether by judgment or by settlement, only released another concurrent tortfeasor if the settlement amounted to a payment of the full value of the claim.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments dismissing two appeals by the defendants, Central Electricity Generating Board and Babcock Energy Ltd, from the judgment on preliminary issues of Sir Haydn Tudor Evans, sitting as a judge of the Queen's Bench Division in March 1993, holding:

1 In favour of the plaintiffs, the executors of the estate of David A. Jameson, deceased, in their claim against CECB for damages for loss of dependency under the Fatal Accidents Act 1976 and

2 That in the event of the plaintiffs succeeding in that claim CECB was entitled to claim against Babcock for a contribution under the Civil Liability (Contribution) Act 1978.

Mr Ian McLaren, QC, for CECB; Mr William Woodward, QC and Miss Elizabeth Hodgson for Babcock; Mr Ronald Walker,

QC and Mr Anthony Coleman for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE AULD said that Mr. Jameson died in 1988 at the age of 50 from malignant mesothelioma. Shortly before his death he had agreed to accept £80,000 from Babcock, his former employer, in "full and final settlement" of his claim in negligence/breach of statutory duty causing that disease by exposing him to asbestos.

The £80,000 was significantly less than the full liability value of his claim, reflecting the parties' appreciation of the uncertainty of the outcome of litigation.

Mr. Jameson's claim against Babcock was that the harmful exposure had occurred at various places, it had employed him, including those of CECB, at which Babcock was undertaking work.

After Mr. Jameson's death the plaintiffs' executors had issued proceedings against CECB under the 1976 Act in respect of the same exposure, based on the fact that the claim in the settled action against Babcock, alleging similar, but not identical, negligence and breach of statutory duty,

CECB maintained it could not be liable because Mr. Jameson's settlement with Babcock had satisfied his claim and had thus discharged any claim he might have had against CECB as a concurrent tortfeasor.

CECB joined Babcock as a third party to the action who similarly resisted that claim and also maintained that claim under the 1976 Act in such circumstances was not within the provisions of the 1978 Act.

The first issue, whether release

by judgment or settlement of one tortfeasor discharged a concurrent tortfeasor, required consideration of the separate defences of accord and satisfaction and of satisfaction.

Accord and satisfaction

The judge had held that a

settlement by one concurrent

tortfeasor only released another

concurrent tortfeasor if it

amounted in actual satisfaction,

that is, payment of the full value of

the claim. Accordingly, he held

that Mr. Jameson's settlement with

Babcock for less than his claimed

whole loss had not released CECB

from any liability it might have

wanted to impose.

The rule that accord and

satisfaction, as distinct from a

covenant not to sue, operated as a

release for joint tortfeasors was

well established. The cause of

action against them was, on the

other hand, not well established.

Indemnities

CECB maintained that if

the defendant's satisfaction was

not full satisfaction, then the

plaintiff's satisfaction was

not full satisfaction, then the

THE TIMES TUESDAY FEBRUARY 25 1997

The ITF players, their points and their values if you are considering the transfer option

Code	Name	Team	Pos.	Min	Max	Wk. On
10101	M Watt	Aberdeen	1.50	-5	-8	
10102	N Walker	Aberdeen	1.00	-1	-14	
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	0	+33	
10202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.75	0	-0	
10203	J Lukic	Arsenal	0.75	-4	-9	
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.50	+4	+10	
10302	M Oakes	Aston Villa	1.00	0	+18	
10401	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	+4	+3	
10402	S Given	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	+4	
10501	G Marshall	Celtic	3.50	-1	-1	
10502	S Kerr	Celtic	3.00	+4	+21	
10601	D Kharine	Chesterfield	2.00	+1	-27	
10602	K Hitchcock	Chesterfield	3.00	-2	+1	
10603	F Grodias	Coventry City	1.50	+2	-18	
10701	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	0.50	0	0	
10702	J Filan	Derby County	1.00	-1	-17	
10801	M Taylor	Derby County	1.00	-10	-17	
10802	R Sout	Dundee United	0.50	0	+4	
10901	A Maxwell	Dundee United	0.50	-10	-10	
10902	L Kerr	Dunfermline	0.50	+5	-44	
11001	I Westwater	Everton	2.50	+5	+4	
11101	N Southall	Everton	2.50	+5	+4	
11102	P Gerrard	Hibernian	2.00	-6	-26	
11201	G Rousset	Kilmarnock	1.50	-5	-37	
11301	J Leighton	Leeds United	1.00	-1	-5	
11401	D Lekovic	Leeds United	1.50	-1	-5	
11501	M Beeney	Leeds United	0.25	0	0	
11502	P Evans	Leeds United	2.50	+2	+19	
11503	N Martyn	Leicester City	1.00	-1	-6	
11601	K Poole	Leicester City	1.00	-3	-23	
11603	K Keller	Liverpool	5.00	+10	+33	
11701	D James	Liverpool	0.50	0	0	
11702	A Warner	Manchester United	5.00	-2	+6	
11801	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	1.00	0	+5	
11802	R van der Gouw	Middlesbrough	1.50	-20	-2	
11901	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	1.50	-23	-2	
11902	A Miller	Middlesbrough	1.50	-2	-26	
12001	S Howie	Motherwell	0.50	-1	-28	
12101	S Histon	Newcastle United	3.00	+5	-10	
12102	P Smicer	Nottingham Forest	0.75	-2	-32	
12201	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	0.75	-1	-20	
12202	A Fette	Nottingham Forest	0.50	-1	-2	
12203	T Wright	Rangers	0.50	-1	-39	
12301	S Thompson	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	-6	+10	
12501	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	-1	-20	
12601	D Bassett	Southampton	0.25	0	+2	
12602	M Moes	Southampton	1.00	-1	-17	
12604	L Taylor	Sunderland	0.50	-1	-7	
12702	A Coton	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	-1	-7	
12801	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	-1	-21	
12802	E Baardens	West Ham United	2.00	-2	-1	
12901	L Miklosko	West Ham United	0.50	-1	-5	
13001	S Maitone	Wimbledon	1.00	+5	+7	
13002	P Heald	Wimbledon	1.00	0	0	



Collymore was ineffective against Blackburn Rovers, but his display against Leeds United gained him six points

Code	Name	Team	Pos.	Min	Max	Wk. On
200101	S McKinnie	Aberdeen	2.00	0	+8	
200102	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	-2	+26	
200201	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	-1	+2	
200203	S Morrow	Arsenal	1.00	+1	-2	
200301	S Staunton	Aston Villa	3.00	0	+31	
200302	A Wright	Aston Villa	2.50	0	0	
200303	G Charles	Aston Villa	0.25	0	0	
200304	P King	Aston Villa	3.00	+3	+31	
200305	F Nelson	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	+4	+22	
200401	H Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	+4	+27	
200402	G le Saux	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	+4	+20	
200403	J Kenne	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	+2	
200404	G Croft	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	+4	+31	
200501	J McNamara	Celtic	3.00	+4	+12	
200502	T McKinlay	Celtic	3.00	+12	-2	
200601	D Petrescu	Celtic	2.00	0	+4	
200602	S Clarke	Celtic	1.00	-1	-1	
200604	S Minto	Coventry City	1.50	-1	-2	
200701	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.00	-1	-6	
200703	M Half	Coventry City	1.00	+3	-15	
200704	C Powell	Derby County	1.50	-10	-10	
200801	D Yates	Dundee United	0.50	-1	-34	
200901	M Malpas	Dundee United	0.50	-1	-7	
200902	M Perry	Dundee United	0.50	-1	-7	
200903	N Duffy	Dunfermline	0.25	-4	-4	
201001	C Miller	Dunfermline	0.25	-4	-4	
201002	A Tod	Everton	2.00	-1	-14	
21101	M Hottiger	Everton	2.00	-14	-14	
21102	A Hinchliffe	Everton	2.00	-14	-14	
200503	T Phelan	Everton	1.50	-1	-15	
200504	E Barrett	Hearts	1.00	-1	-13	
21201	G Locke	Hearts	1.00	-1	-13	
21202	N Polton	Hearts	1.00	-1	-13	
21301	W Miller	Hibernian	1.00	-1	-13	
21302	A Dow	Hibernian	0.50	-2	-13	
21402	G MacPherson	Hibernian	3.00	+1	+38	
21501	G Kelly	Leeds United	2.50	+4	+11	
21502	A Dorigo	Leeds United	1.00	+1	+18	
21504	G Hall	Leeds United	0.50	-1	-6	
21601	M Whilow	Leeds United	0.50	-1	-6	
21602	S Grayson	Leicester City	0.25	-1	-10	
21604	F Rolling	Leicester City	3.00	-1	-10	
21701	R Jones	Liverpool	1.50	-1	-10	
21702	S Hartness	Liverpool	0.50	-1	-10	
21703	S Jibombye	Liverpool	0.50	-1	-10	
21801	D Ainsworth	Manchester United	4.00	-1	-11	
21802	P Neville	Manchester United	3.00	-1	-11	
21803	N Cox	Manchester United	2.50	-1	-10	
21804	C Morris	Middlesbrough	1.50	-1	-1	
21805	C Fleming	Middlesbrough	0.75	-1	-1	
21806	C Blackmore	Middlesbrough	0.25	-1	-1	
22001	V Kinder	Middlesbrough	0.50	-1	-1	
22002	S McMillan	Motherwell	3.00	-1	-1	
22003	T Bonar	Newcastle United	3.00	-1	-1	
22004	P Neville	Newcastle United	2.50	-1	-1	
22005	N Cox	Newcastle United	2.50	-1	-1	
22006	C Morris	Newcastle United	2.50	-1	-1	
22007	C Fleming	Newcastle United	2.50	-1	-1	
22008	C Blackmore	Newcastle United	2.50	-1	-1	
22009	V Kinder	Newcastle United	2.50	-1	-1	
22010	S McMillan	Newcastle United	3.00	-1	-1	
22011	T Bonar	Newcastle United	3.00	-1	-1	
22012	P Neville	Newcastle United	2.50	-1	-1	
22013	N Cox	Newcastle United	2.50	-1	-1	
22014	C Morris	Newcastle United	2.50	-1	-1	
22015	C Fleming	Newcastle United	2.50	-1	-1	
22016	C Blackmore	Newcastle United	2.50	-1	-1	
22017	V Kinder	Newcastle United	2.50	-1	-1	
22018	S McMillan	Newcastle United	3.00	-1	-1	
22019	T Bonar	Newcastle United	3.00	-1	-1	
22020	P Neville	Newcastle United	2.50	-1	-1	
22021	N Cox	Newcastle United	2.50	-1	-1	
22022	C Morris	Newcastle United	2.50	-1	-1	
22023						

THE TIMES TODAY

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 25 1997

NEWS

Tube sell-off to raise £2 billion

The London Underground is to be sold off for £2 billion and the proceeds ploughed back into building a modern network fit for the 21st century, Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, will announce today.

Sir George has won key concessions from the Treasury that will allow proceeds from the privatisation to be "ring-fenced". Whoever buys the network will be "drip-fed" the safe proceeds through an annual subsidy that will have to be spent on upgrading the 255-mile system. Page 1

Billie-Jo's guardian held over killing

The foster father of Billie-Jo Jenkins was arrested by detectives investigating her murder. Sion Jenkins, 39, a deputy headmaster, was detained at Hastings. His arrest came nine days after Billie-Jo, 13, was bludgeoned to death. Page 1

Storms' rage

Three people died in a motorway crash as Britain braced itself for the worst gale of the winter with weathermen forecasting hurricane force winds in some parts of the south. Page 1

Princess sues

Lawyers acting for Diana, Princess of Wales, issued a libel writ against the *Express on Sunday* over allegations that she would personally profit from an auction of her dresses. Page 1

Role for Reeve

Christopher Reeve, the *Superman* actor paralysed in a horse riding accident, is to make his screen comeback in a remake of *Rear Window*. Page 3

Sparkling Cherie

Cherie Blair sparkled in the role of party leader's wife when she joined her husband in Wirral South in a dress rehearsal for the general election. Page 4

Video interview

Videotapes of police interviewing suspects would be played in court under plans to provide greater protection for both police and alleged criminals. Page 5

Not a race apart

Four airline stewards who claimed British Airways discriminated against them because they were Scottish lost their case when a tribunal ruled that Scots and English are the same. Page 6

British spies fall on hard times

Some of Britain's spies have had their security clearance withdrawn because they have gone chronically into the red. The parliamentary Intelligence and Security Committee gave a warning of the dangers of spies in financial trouble. The committee's annual report says they could be targeted by Russian agents bearing cash. Page 1



Thousands of Chinese wait patiently behind a barrier of military police for a glimpse of Deng Xiaoping's cortege. Page 11

Dispute: SmithKline Beecham

The pharmaceuticals group, agreed to pay \$325 million to settle a long-running dispute with American regulators. Page 25

Takeover: Yorkshire Electricity accepted an £1.5 billion offer from a US energy group, making it the seventh regional electricity company under US control. Page 25

Payout: Alliance & Leicester, the building society that plans to become a bank this spring, will make payouts worth an average of £1,000 to some 2.4 million savers and borrowers. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell to 4331.1 while sterling rose from 97.4 to 97.7 after its rise from \$1,619 to \$1,633 and from DM2,725 to DM2,770. Page 28

Football: Fifa ruled out any possibility of a joint bid by England and Germany to stage the 2006 World Cup. The two countries will now push ahead to get the backing of Uefa. Page 48

Rugby union: Leicester, the new favourites, have been drawn away to Gloucester in the Filton Cup semi-finals. Sale entertain Harlequins in the other tie. Page 48

Rowing: Ed Bellamy, the Oxford president, issued the traditional challenge to Cambridge but will miss the Boat Race after losing his place in the crew. Page 48

Tennis: Tim Henman's world ranking rose from 19 to 14 after he reached the final of the European Community Championship. Greg Rusedski is at 35. Page 48

Leather: Geoff Brown reports on the winners of the Berlin Film Festival, including the Golden Bear for best film for *The People vs Larry Flynt*. Page 35

Prize: Brian Cox is magnificent as a power-hungry Irish theatre critic on the road to ruin in *Conor McPherson's* one-man play, *St Nicholas*. Page 34

Pop class: At a gig in Kentish Town, Sheffield band Longpigs show some of the class that has established them as one of the most accomplished live acts of the 1990s. Page 34

Modern madness: The scandal of Roger Fry's great 1910 Post-Impressionist exhibition that sent a "hurricane" through London is evoked in a show at the Barbican. Page 33

Critic's choice: Brian Cox is magnificent as a power-hungry Irish theatre critic on the road to ruin in *Conor McPherson's* one-man play, *St Nicholas*. Page 34

And in out: The British screenwriter Jonathan Glazer is directing his first American film — but it could also be his last because, he says, Los Angeles is not a good place to live in. Page 15

Dunblane remembered: In Part Two, Magnus Linklater describes how a headmaster and a minister have helped the town to cope with its grief. Page 14

Libby Purves

It is not for us to end evolution. The history of living creatures is a story of change and adaptation. Normal reproduction ensures that the genetic kaleidoscope is shaken every single time. Besides, the qualities which we value today may not be those the future needs. Page 16

JONATHAN SACKS

The family is a social institution. It is not something its members have invented, any more than they have made the language they speak. It is something they have inherited from the culture — from habit or custom, or the example of their parents, or possibly religious teaching. Page 16

Emily Hahn, American writer and adventurer; Sir Frank Hardie, pharmacist; Alan Elliott-Smith, headmaster

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Lord Jenkins on lessons of Ireland in devolution debate; police misconduct and damage awards; are we failing the elderly; sex offenders' Bill; women in the Church; Dickens's statue

Page 17

Changes to chart below from noon: low M will slowly fill and push northeast up the Norwegian coast; low A will be slow moving in the Atlantic and lose its identity.

Winds from 20 to 30 mph; 30 mph from 40 to 50 mph; 50 mph from 60 to 70 mph; 70 mph from 80 to 90 mph; 90 mph from 100 to 110 mph; 110 mph from 120 to 130 mph; 130 mph from 140 to 150 mph; 150 mph from 160 to 170 mph; 170 mph from 180 to 190 mph; 190 mph from 200 to 210 mph; 210 mph from 220 to 230 mph; 230 mph from 240 to 250 mph; 250 mph from 260 to 270 mph; 270 mph from 280 to 290 mph; 290 mph from 300 to 310 mph; 310 mph from 320 to 330 mph; 330 mph from 340 to 350 mph; 350 mph from 360 to 370 mph; 370 mph from 380 to 390 mph; 390 mph from 400 to 410 mph; 410 mph from 420 to 430 mph; 430 mph from 440 to 450 mph; 450 mph from 460 to 470 mph; 470 mph from 480 to 490 mph; 490 mph from 500 to 510 mph; 510 mph from 520 to 530 mph; 530 mph from 540 to 550 mph; 550 mph from 560 to 570 mph; 570 mph from 580 to 590 mph; 590 mph from 600 to 610 mph; 610 mph from 620 to 630 mph; 630 mph from 640 to 650 mph; 650 mph from 660 to 670 mph; 670 mph from 680 to 690 mph; 690 mph from 700 to 710 mph; 710 mph from 720 to 730 mph; 730 mph from 740 to 750 mph; 750 mph from 760 to 770 mph; 770 mph from 780 to 790 mph; 790 mph from 800 to 810 mph; 810 mph from 820 to 830 mph; 830 mph from 840 to 850 mph; 850 mph from 860 to 870 mph; 870 mph from 880 to 890 mph; 890 mph from 900 to 910 mph; 910 mph from 920 to 930 mph; 930 mph from 940 to 950 mph; 950 mph from 960 to 970 mph; 970 mph from 980 to 990 mph; 990 mph from 1000 to 1010 mph; 1010 mph from 1020 to 1030 mph; 1030 mph from 1040 to 1050 mph; 1050 mph from 1060 to 1070 mph; 1070 mph from 1080 to 1090 mph; 1090 mph from 1100 to 1110 mph; 1110 mph from 1120 to 1130 mph; 1130 mph from 1140 to 1150 mph; 1150 mph from 1160 to 1170 mph; 1170 mph from 1180 to 1190 mph; 1190 mph from 1200 to 1210 mph; 1210 mph from 1220 to 1230 mph; 1230 mph from 1240 to 1250 mph; 1250 mph from 1260 to 1270 mph; 1270 mph from 1280 to 1290 mph; 1290 mph from 1300 to 1310 mph; 1310 mph from 1320 to 1330 mph; 1330 mph from 1340 to 1350 mph; 1350 mph from 1360 to 1370 mph; 1370 mph from 1380 to 1390 mph; 1390 mph from 1400 to 1410 mph; 1410 mph from 1420 to 1430 mph; 1430 mph from 1440 to 1450 mph; 1450 mph from 1460 to 1470 mph; 1470 mph from 1480 to 1490 mph; 1490 mph from 1500 to 1510 mph; 1510 mph from 1520 to 1530 mph; 1530 mph from 1540 to 1550 mph; 1550 mph from 1560 to 1570 mph; 1570 mph from 1580 to 1590 mph; 1590 mph from 1600 to 1610 mph; 1610 mph from 1620 to 1630 mph; 1630 mph from 1640 to 1650 mph; 1650 mph from 1660 to 1670 mph; 1670 mph from 1680 to 1690 mph; 1690 mph from 1700 to 1710 mph; 1710 mph from 1720 to 1730 mph; 1730 mph from 1740 to 1750 mph; 1750 mph from 1760 to 1770 mph; 1770 mph from 1780 to 1790 mph; 1790 mph from 1800 to 1810 mph; 1810 mph from 1820 to 1830 mph; 1830 mph from 1840 to 1850 mph; 1850 mph from 1860 to 1870 mph; 1870 mph from 1880 to 1890 mph; 1890 mph from 1900 to 1910 mph; 1910 mph from 1920 to 1930 mph; 1930 mph from 1940 to 1950 mph; 1950 mph from 1960 to 1970 mph; 1970 mph from 1980 to 1990 mph; 1990 mph from 2000 to 2010 mph; 2010 mph from 2020 to 2030 mph; 2030 mph from 2040 to 2050 mph; 2050 mph from 2060 to 2070 mph; 2070 mph from 2080 to 2090 mph; 2090 mph from 2100 to 2110 mph; 2110 mph from 2120 to 2130 mph; 2130 mph from 2140 to 2150 mph; 2150 mph from 2160 to 2170 mph; 2170 mph from 2180 to 2190 mph; 2190 mph from 2200 to 2210 mph; 2210 mph from 2220 to 2230 mph; 2230 mph from 2240 to 2250 mph; 2250 mph from 2260 to 2270 mph; 2270 mph from 2280 to 2290 mph; 2290 mph from 2300 to 2310 mph; 2310 mph from 2320 to 2330 mph; 2330 mph from 2340 to 2350 mph; 2350 mph from 2360 to 2370 mph; 2370 mph from 2380 to 2390 mph; 2390 mph from 2400 to 2410 mph; 2410 mph from 2420 to 2430 mph; 2430 mph from 2440 to 2450 mph; 2450 mph from 2460 to 2470 mph; 2470 mph from 2480 to 2490 mph; 2490 mph from 2500 to 2510 mph; 2510 mph from 2520 to 2530 mph; 2530 mph from 2540 to 2550 mph; 2550 mph from 2560 to 2570 mph; 2570 mph from 2580 to 2590 mph; 2590 mph from 2600 to 2610 mph; 2610 mph from 2620 to 2630 mph; 2630 mph from 2640 to 2650 mph; 2650 mph from 2660 to 2670 mph; 2670 mph from 2680 to 2690 mph; 2690 mph from 2700 to 2710 mph; 2710 mph from 2720 to 2730 mph; 2730 mph from 2740 to 2750 mph; 2750 mph from 2760 to 2770 mph; 2770 mph from 2780 to 2790 mph; 2790 mph from 2800 to 2810 mph; 2810 mph from 2820 to 2830 mph; 2830 mph from 2840 to 2850 mph; 2850 mph from 2860 to 2870 mph; 2870 mph from 2880 to 2890 mph; 2890 mph from 2900 to 2910 mph; 2910 mph from 2920 to 2930 mph; 2930 mph from 2940 to 2950 mph; 2950 mph from 2960 to 2970 mph; 2970 mph from 2980 to 2990 mph; 2990 mph from 3000 to 3010 mph; 3010 mph from 3020 to 3030 mph; 3030 mph from 3040 to 3050 mph; 3050 mph from 3060 to 3070 mph; 3070 mph from 3080 to 3090 mph; 3090 mph from 3100 to 3110 mph; 3110 mph from 3120 to 3130 mph; 3130 mph from 3140 to 3150 mph; 3150 mph from 3160 to 3170 mph; 3170 mph from 3180 to 3190 mph; 3190 mph from 3200 to 3210 mph; 3210 mph from 3220 to 3230 mph; 3230 mph from 3240 to 3250 mph; 3250 mph from 3260 to 3270 mph; 3270 mph from 3280 to 3290 mph; 3290 mph from 3300 to 3310 mph; 3310 mph from 3320 to 3330 mph; 3330 mph from 3340 to 3350 mph; 3350 mph from 3360 to 3370 mph; 3370 mph from 3380 to 3390 mph; 3390 mph from 3400 to 3410 mph; 3410 mph from 3420 to 3430 mph; 3430 mph from 3440 to 3450 mph; 3450 mph from 3460 to 3470 mph; 3470 mph from 3480 to 3490 mph; 3490 mph from 3500 to 3510 mph; 3510 mph from 3520 to 3530 mph; 3530 mph from 3540 to 3550 mph; 3550 mph from 3560 to 3570 mph; 3570 mph from 3580 to 3590 mph; 3590 mph from 3600 to 3610 mph; 3610 mph from 3620 to 3630 mph; 3630 mph from 3640 to 3650 mph; 3650 mph from 3660 to 3670 mph; 3670 mph from 3680 to 3690 mph; 3690 mph from 3700 to 3710 mph; 3710 mph from 3720 to 3730 mph; 3730 mph from 3740 to 3750 mph; 3750 mph from 3760 to 3770 mph; 3770 mph from 3780 to 3790 mph; 3790 mph from 3800 to 3810 mph; 3810 mph from 3820 to 3830 mph; 3830 mph from 3840 to 3850 mph; 3850 mph from 3860 to 3870 mph; 3870 mph from 3880 to 3890 mph; 3890 mph from 3900 to 3910 mph; 3910 mph from 3920 to 3930 mph; 3930 mph from 3940 to 3950 mph; 3950 mph from 3960 to 3970 mph; 3970 mph from 3980 to 3990 mph; 3990 mph from 4000 to 4010 mph; 4010 mph from 4020 to 4030 mph; 4030 mph from 4040 to 4050 mph; 4050 mph from 4060 to 4070 mph; 4070 mph from 4080 to 4090 mph; 4090 mph from 4100 to 4110 mph; 4110 mph from 4120 to 4130 mph; 4130 mph from 4140 to 4150 mph; 4150 mph from 4160 to 4170 mph; 4170 mph from 4180 to 4190 mph; 4190 mph from 4200 to 4210 mph; 4210 mph from 4220 to 4230 mph; 4230 mph from 4240 to 4250 mph; 4250 mph from 4260 to 4270 mph; 4270 mph from 4280 to 4290 mph; 4290 mph from 4300 to 4310 mph; 4310 mph from 4320 to 4330 mph; 4330 mph from 4340 to 4350 mph; 4350 mph from 4360 to 4370 mph; 4370 mph from 4380 to 4390 mph; 4390 mph from 4400 to 4410 mph; 4410 mph from 4420 to 4430 mph; 4430 mph from 4440 to 4450 mph; 4450 mph from 4460 to 4470 mph; 4470 mph from 4480 to 4490 mph; 4490 mph from 4500 to 4510 mph; 4510 mph from 4520 to 4530 mph; 4530 mph from 4540 to 4550 mph; 4550 mph from 4560 to 4570 mph; 4570 mph from 4580 to 4590 mph; 4590 mph from 4600 to 4610 mph; 4610 mph from 4620 to 4630 mph; 4630 mph from 4640 to 4650 mph; 4650 mph from 4660 to 4670 mph; 4670 mph from 4680 to 4690 mph; 4690 mph from 4700 to 4710 mph; 4710 mph from 4720 to 4730 mph; 4730 mph from 4740 to 4750 mph; 4750 mph from 4760 to 4770 mph; 4770 mph from 4780 to 4790 mph; 4790 mph from 4800 to 4810 mph; 4810

THE TIMES



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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 25 1997

Yorkshire Electricity accepts £1.5bn US offer

By ERIC REGULY

YORKSHIRE ELECTRICITY yesterday accepted a £1.5 billion takeover offer from an American energy group. The bid puts seven regional electricity companies under US control and leaves Southern Electric as the only independent player in the industry.

Yorkshire Holdings, a company equally owned by American Electric Power of Ohio and Public Services of Colorado, offered 92p in cash for Yorkshire, which represents a premium of 13.3 per cent to the shares' Friday closing price. Analysts believe that the bid is fairly valued; they do not expect a rival takeover offer.

The shares closed yesterday at 88p, up 63p. Analysts said that the discount to the

offer price reflects investors' fears that the takeover may not receive approval before the general election. The Department of Trade and Industry, acting on advice from Offer, the electricity regulator, and the Office of Fair Trading, usually approves or rejects a deal within 35 working days of the launch of an offer.

American Electric and Public Services moved quickly once they decided to go for Yorkshire. Yorkshire Holdings, their company, was incorporated on February 14 and first approached Yorkshire Electricity, led by Christopher Hampson, chairman, last Thursday. With the election looming, the Americans realised they could not risk waiting.

American Electric and Public Services

were each hunting for a regional electricity company. In December, acting on the advice of Merrill Lynch, the Wall Street investment firm, they pooled resources. By then Yorkshire and Southern were the only two takeover options.

A Merrill banker said that Southern, with a market capitalisation of almost £2 billion against Yorkshire's £1.3 billion, was simply too big.

The takeover price represents a multiple of 6.6 times Yorkshire's cashflow in the year to March 31, 1996, and 11.3 times its earnings per share. The bid will be 75 per cent financed by debt and 25 per cent by equity. Yorkshire shareholders will retain the right to receive the interim dividend of 15.8p, to be paid on March 25.

The American companies launched their party because they wanted to expand beyond the highly competitive US market and partly because they believe they can introduce new services and businesses to Yorkshire. Wayne Brunetti, president of Public Services, an electricity and gas utility with three million customers in Colorado and Wyoming, said options include building up Yorkshire's gas supply division and providing 'one-stop shopping and billing' for various services. These might include telephony — Yorkshire owns about 20 per cent of Iomica, the wireless phone company — and marketing and billing services for satellite-TV operators.

Pennington, page 27



SB agrees \$325m American settlement

By ERIC REGULY

SMITHKLINE Beecham, Britain's second-largest pharmaceuticals group, agreed yesterday to pay \$325 million to settle a long-running dispute with American regulators.

SmithKline reached the settlement with the Department of Justice and the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Health, which had accused the company's Clinical Laboratories division of charging for blood and urine tests that were either unauthorised or medically unnecessary between 1989 and 1996.

The settlement was covered by a £250 million contingent liability reserve taken in 1995. Nonetheless, the amount was higher than some analysts had forecast and the shares lost 11p, to 910½p.

Jan Leschly, chief executive, said: "It is important to understand that SmithKline never intentionally violated any laws... Although we believe we have strong defences, our decision to settle the case was driven by the enormous potential costs and uncertainties connected with lengthy litigation. It was simply too great a risk."

He blamed "ambiguities" in health and regulatory guidelines for Clinical Laboratories' charging practices. The practices were exposed by an employee, who leaked the information to Medicare, one of the US Government's healthcare services.

Other laboratory companies fell foul of the Government as well. In 1994, National Medical Enterprise paid \$385 million to settle overcharging claims. Last year, Laboratory Corporation paid \$302 million in a settlement.

The changes in the system for government reimbursement for clinical tests has raised speculation that SmithKline will sell Clinical Laboratories. Sales growth and profit growth have been slow. In the last financial year, the division reported

sales of £840 million, up 2 per cent, and trading profit of £35 million, up 7 per cent. The sales growth, however, was entirely due to volume instead of price increases, and the profit growth largely due to cost-cutting.

SmithKline believes that a turnaround at Clinical Laboratories is in place. The improvement in the second half of last year marks the first time that trading profit increased since the second quarter of 1995.

Mr Leschly said that Clinical Laboratories fits the company's strategy of "total disease management" and will remain in the group portfolio.

SmithKline's other divisions include pharmaceuticals, consumer healthcare products and managed healthcare.

Tadakazu Yamada, president of SmithKline healthcare services, said: "We continue to work with the Government and other third-party providers to arrive at clear, unanimous guidelines to ensure that, in the future, disputes of this nature can be resolved cooperatively, in a fair and expeditious manner."

The Clinical Laboratories settlement removes a dark cloud over SmithKline. Analysts are now focusing their attention on the effect of the rise of sterling on the company's profits, and the outlook for Diversified Pharmaceuticals care.

The settlement removes a dark cloud over SmithKline. Analysts are now focusing their attention on the effect of the rise of sterling on the company's profits, and the outlook for Diversified Pharmaceuticals care.

SmithKline said that pre-tax profits this year could fall by as much as 5 per cent if sterling remains at year-end levels. DPS, meanwhile, is not earning profits. SmithKline has invested heavily in DPS and believes that the service could be replicated outside of the US.

In spite of SmithKline Beecham's concern about the strength of sterling, the company pleased investors last week by announcing a 14 per cent rise in 1996 profits, to £1.55 billion.



Xstatic: Mike Blackburn, the Halifax chief executive, left, with Jon Foulds, chairman, at the Sheffield Arena for yesterday's special meeting

Full steam ahead for Halifax

By MARIANNE CURPHY
AND CAROLINE MERRILL

AN overwhelming majority of Halifax members have voted in favour of the building society's proposed conversion to a bank in June.

Of the eligible members who voted, more than 97 per cent, or 5.15 million, of investing members voted in favour, while 110,000 voted against.

The total number of eligible investing members was 6.96 million.

The Halifax needed a simple majority of borrowers to

vote in favour. In the event, 1.52 million voted in favour and 40,000 voted against, out of a total of 2.29 million eligible borrowing members.

Almost 1,100 Halifax members attended yesterday's special general meeting at the Sheffield Arena to discuss the proposals, which would turn Halifax in to a bank capitalised at £12 billion.

The society's stock market debut, scheduled for June, will be the widest-ever extension of share ownership, benefiting one in five households in the UK. The Halifax is giving out

shares in two tranches — the basic and variable distribution.

The basic distribution of 200 shares, worth approximately £340, will be given to members who had at least £100 in their account at November 25, 1994, and February 24, 1997, and to qualifying borrowers.

The variable distribution will be paid to those members who had more than £1,000 at these two dates.

Many of those who attended the meeting spoke passionately about their wish for Halifax to remain a mutual society,

citing their belief that mutuals gave better rates to savers and borrowers. Other questions from the floor focused on the remuneration packages of board members following conversion and the problems of disabled savers who do not run their own accounts.

A Private Member's Bill currently being piloted through Parliament by Douglas French, the Conservative MP, proposes that disabled people would have the same rights as other members. However, even if the Bill is successful, it will not be retro-

spective and will not affect the Halifax.

Jon Foulds, chairman of the Halifax, said he was aware that it is "a sensitive and emotive issue". He said: "I know that the question of trustee accounts and joint accounts has come to the fore with disabled people whose savings are looked after by relatives or carers. In many cases carers acting as trustees for a number of people will receive more shares, and therefore have more to distribute."

Among the opponents of the conversion were Peter Judge and Serge Lourie, co-founders of the Halifax Action Group.

In an angry exchange, Mr Foulds accused Mr Judge of

presenting a "lopsided" argument when Mr Judge claimed the Halifax board was privatising the society and "selling it off cheap".

The Halifax is the largest of the five building societies converting to banks this year. It will become the UK's fifth-largest bank after Natwest, HSBC, Lloyds TSB and Barclays. Some believe the Halifax can benefit from the increase in the value put on the banking sector as a whole, pushing the average handout to as high as £1,500.

Eurotunnel wins more time from its banks

By JONATHAN PRYNN
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

EUROTUNNEL has won a further nine months breathing space from its 225 banks, after they agreed to extend the company's interest payment holiday until December 14.

The company requested the extension after last November's fire, when it became clear that its freight shuttle service, one of its biggest revenue earners, would not resume before the spring.

The standstill was originally scheduled to end on March 31 after the restructuring of the company's finances but the fire has delayed the final agreement of the deal.

Eurotunnel stopped paying the interest on its £9 billion borrowings in September 1995 when it became clear it was heading for insolvency. Without the extension, Eurotunnel would have been faced with an £800 million a year interest bill that it could not have paid.

A £4.5 billion restructuring of its precarious finances was agreed in principle last October but the proposed deal is still being considered by the syndicate. A meeting of shareholders to approve the restructuring has also been delayed until late June.

Eurotunnel executives are still preparing proposed modifications to its HGV freight service for consideration by the Channel Tunnel Safety Authority. However, they are not thought to extend to a redesign of its controversial "lattice sided" open wagons, blamed by some for the severity of last November's fire.

Alliance's market share drops

By ROBERT MILLER

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER, the building society that plans to make its stock market debut on April 21, has seen its share of the home loans market fall to 3.5 per cent from 5.2 per cent in 1995 and gross mortgage lending declined by £700 million to £2.2 billion.

Peter White, chief executive, who yesterday reported record annual pre-tax profits of £306 million compared with £287 million in 1995, said the society had chosen not to "buy" market share with special discounts and cashbacks

in the first half of 1996 but had seen its share increase in the fourth quarter as more normal pricing conditions returned.

In the ARL group, Girobank, the society's commercial banking subsidiary which processed £73 billion of cash and cheques, slipped to £63 million, down £2 million on the previous year.

The personal banking arm, which includes current accounts, personal loans and credit cards, contributed pre-

tax profits of £64 million against £60 million in 1995. Mr White said that the life and unit-trust business, launched last March, was already profitable.

After the flotation, which is expected to cost up to £38 million and still needs final clearance from the Building Societies Commission, the newest recruit to the banking sector could be looking to acquire businesses in the long-term healthcare and life markets.

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JOHN CHARCOL

□ And then there was one... □ Last episode for Emap's soap opera □ Waning fortunes of French holiday legend

IN THE interests of biodiversity, should the regional electricity industry be declared a nature preserve? The bid for Yorkshire Electricity should slip under the wire before the election. Any offer for the last survivor of the class of 1990, Southern, could also succeed over the same timescale.

One is reminded of that anonymous Portuguese sailor who tucked into the last dodo. Eating one dodo is no more of a sin than eating the next — until one day, too late, there are none of them left. No one can say what use dodos might have been — provided some parallel-world Bernard Matthews with his fortune, perhaps? Likewise, we may not miss all our regional electricity companies until they are gone.

If Southern does succumb to an American landing party, the beast will have been clubbed over the head in the nick of time, because a hit squad from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has been sighted on the horizon. Labour's John Battle is not actually saying his party will block any bids if in power, but the betting is that the Americans would have a more difficult ride.

The timing is tight anyway — the bidders for Yorkshire have opted for an accelerated timetable that should provide a decision within 50 days, taking this to about three weeks before a

May 1 election date. This explains the undue haste with which the deal has been done, the two Americans wanting to avoid a protracted bidding war. It explains the failure of Yorkshire to wait it out for a higher price, even if the earnings multiples being paid are not much higher than those paid for Northern in a hostile bid.

So much for fears about the utilities tax. The Americans must think the opportunities to create a Yorkshire mega-utility taking in potentially, gas and telecoms are well worth the extra cost — not that this will prevent them from threatening legal action if it is levied.

PowerGen, one of the two big fossil-fuel generators, still harbours ambitions to buy a regional power company, but it had hoped to wait until after the election, when Labour might look more favourably on a move. The company has clearly missed one boat and on the above analysis risks missing the next. But any bid for Southern will kill off the last dodo.

The loser would be the electricity regulator and, potentially,

Dining on the last dodo

customers. If every power distributor disappears, the job of setting prices by comparing one company with another becomes immeasurably more difficult. A few independents allow a clear view of finances that can be too easily obscured once companies come under new ownership.

That suggests a Southern bid should be blocked by whichever government, even if it would be hard on a set of shareholders who would be the only ones shut out of the ball. Better still to block Yorkshire and keep a breeding pair. This will probably not happen under the Conservatives. But it should.

Arculus departs from the script

BACK in the 1960s there was a soap opera set in the racy world of consumer magazines. *Compact* was the name, if memory serves. It was one of those dramas where bright young people rush into each other's offices saying things like: "You swine, Richard — you utter, utter swine."

The series enjoyed a brief revival

PENNINGTON



last year courtesy of Emap, the magazine publisher. The plot: two clever young men, Robin Miller and David Arculus, turn a sleepy local paper group into one of the most successful publishers of the past decade. Lots of dramatic potential here, because one is a motorbike-crazy journalist and the other a professional manager.

Enter a third character, an abrasive, experienced businessman, a favourite of Mrs Thatcher, as the new chairman. Which of the two will Sir John Hoskyns favour in the inevitable leadership battle? And how long will the other last?

Next episode should be a good, public boardroom row — men in suits with lines like, "In all conscience, Robin, I can't back you on this one." We got one last

autumn, and two non-executives walked. But what of Mr Arculus?

Fast-forward to last November, and Emap presenting interim figures to the City. Robin Miller is upbeat, profits up 34 per cent. Sir John is reassuring — spirit? Of course not. Everyone working together, team effort. David Arculus is strangely subdued.

In the last episode of the new series, Mr Arculus goes to Mr Miller and says he is leaving. No arguments. Emap's share price falls — lots of anxious calls to brokers. But what is remarkable is how well the price has performed over the past year despite the rows, up from below 60 to above 28 before yesterday's fall.

This would seem to put a question mark over just how essential Mr Arculus was. Kevin Hand, another director, is probably being groomed — should that be manicured? — to take over much of his former job. The disjunction between the job titles of Mr Miller, chief executive, and Mr Arculus, managing director, was always hard to understand. Emap is still in a strong position in its core markets, with benefits to come from the French business

and its expanding radio interests. Watchers might complain if it turns out to be a duller ride from now on, but investors will not.

Mid-life crisis for Club Med

□ IF YOU can turn Euro Disney round, you can save anything. So thought grateful French investors, who pushed Club Med shares up a fifth after Philippe Bourguignon, chairman of the chastened theme park, agreed to become chief executive of the once-trendy but now separating holiday group.

Customers who grit their teeth at Club Med prices might imagine it had profit margins to match. Not so. Profits peaked below £50 million in 1990. In 1995, Club Med made £18 million on turnover of more than £900 million. Last year, income slipped 6 per cent, profit shrank to about £8 million and an £80 million charge for a belated shake-up left the books and investors' faces red instead of bronzed.

Matching the getaway primitivism that proved so trendy in

the 1950s and 1960s with today's search for stress-free, sybaritic isolation, was never going to be easy. Identities became blurred when mate-hunting customers carried happy memories of communal encounters into middle age, and wanted to stay with Club Med but bring the kids and have them looked after. Club 18-30 was never going to have that problem.

Gilbert Trigano, who supplied tents for the first camp in 1950, stayed on until 1993, then handed over to his son Serge — not the best formula for moving with the market. M. Bourguignon will close camps, convert more to the cheaper Club Aquarius label and double the axe accumulated indulgences. That would suit investors but may leave Club Med as just a package operator in a tough market.

A world apart

□ GUSSIES has always had an other-worldly air, even if the gap with the rest of the twentieth century is gradually closing. Great Universal Stores, until yesterday, had no finance director; the post of chief executive is unfilled, and may remain so in perpetuity. Other quoted companies might be envious. However, as GEC has shown, you can get away with much if you are sitting on a mountain of cash.

Thorn sheds 360 jobs on Radio Rentals closures

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

THORN, the rentals group that issued a profit warning last month, is to shut 90 Radio Rentals stores and make 360 staff redundant.

The move follows an announcement this month by Granada that it is to shut around 100 of its rental stores, a move that puts hundreds of jobs at risk.

Around 210 jobs will go at the 90 smaller Radio Rentals stores that are earmarked for closure by the company and the remaining 150 will go from Thorn's central support functions.

The redundancies, most of which are likely to be compulsory, should produce savings of between £6 million and £6.5 million a year.

The closures will reduce the

Radio Rentals chain to 530 stores.

Thorn shares rose 16½p, to 203½p, on news of the cost-cutting, in spite of a fall in profits in the first nine months of this financial year.

Pre-tax profit, including exceptional charges, in the nine months to December 31 was £76.1 million, down from £113.9 million previously. The provisions cover liabilities relating to the closure of Escom UK stores and demerger charges relating to the business's split with EMI last year. No further provisions will be needed to pay for the redundancies. Excluding the exceptional items, pre-tax profit rose to £123 million, from £113.9 million a year ago.

The Government's pro-

posed increase in Insurance Premium Tax from 2.5 per cent to 17.5 per cent from April 1 is expected to knock up to £10 million off Thorn's profits in 1997-98.

The company plans to continue with the roll-out of its Crazy George's rental stores in the UK, and it hopes to have 60 open by the end of the financial year.

However, controversy in France last year over the opening, near Paris, of the first branch of Crazy George's in that country has effectively wrecked that trial of the former, a spokesman said. "We warned the store to be a trial, but the scale of the publicity has ruined it," he said. "We will now have to have a hard look at what to do next in

France and the rest of continental Europe."

In the United States, business has been hit by a sluggish market and tough price competition from consumer electronics retailers.

Thorn said that it is launching its own promotional programmes to reward customers.

Fourth-quarter trading results will feel the impact of the stronger sterling, which will reduce the value of non-UK profits. Thorn repeated its forecast that its full-year profit before tax and exceptional items will be broadly unchanged from last year's pre-tax profit of £107.7 million.

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Regal set to reap White Hart reward

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

REGAL HOTELS GROUP said that the first stage of the integration of the White Hart chain of hotels is complete and it will now be stepping up its marketing campaign.

The company quadrupled in size to 82 hotels when it bought the 60-strong chain from Granada for £122 million early last year. Charles Vere Nicol, executive chairman, said that margins are beginning to improve at the former Forte chain and that the full benefits of the acquisition should flow through this year. Regal is also intending to revamp around 20 per cent of its room stock over the year.

The company unveiled a 250 per cent increase in profits, excluding tax and exceptional items, to £10.35 million. Total sales increased 270 per cent to £66 million while earnings per share increased

38 per cent to 4.68p. Occupancy levels across the group rose by 4.9 percentage points, although the average room rate decreased 4.1 per cent. Gearing was reduced from a high of 75 per cent last May to 68 per cent at the year end.

Regal said that its first three theme bars had proved a success and it is aiming to add six new sites this year. But the company is intending to convert only one hotel to the Country Inns & Suites brand, for which it acquired franchise rights from Carlson, the privately owned leisure group.

Regal shares rose 1p to 64½p, compared with a rights issue price of 42p at the time of the White Hart acquisition. The total dividend was doubled to 1p, with a final of 0.675p payable on March 26.

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Wolfson favours GUS over Next

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

LORD WOLFSON of Sunningdale has signalled that he intends to give up the chairmanship of Next within a year to concentrate on running Great Universal Stores, the mail order group (See Pennington, this page).

Lord Wolfson said: "I spend very little time with Next and am full time with GUS. I suppose this will last for a fairly limited period, maybe another year."

He stepped down from being executive to non-executive chairman of Next, where he and David Jones, chief executive, are credited with engineering its recovery, when he became executive chairman of GUS last August.

He said that GUS and Next are not yet direct competitors, but would become so "if and when GUS gets into direct mail brand catalogues". Lord

Wolfson was speaking yesterday as he revealed boardroom changes at GUS, which included the appointment of David Tyler as group finance director — a post that did not previously exist.

Company advisers suggested the finance director role had been created at the suggestion of institutional investors. However, Lord Wolfson said there had been no pressure. Previously, the chairman and deputy chairman oversaw financial matters through a finance committee.

Mr Tyler's last position was as commercial and finance director of Christie's. Also appointed yesterday were David Bury as group commercial director and treasurer, of GUS and Louise Patten, as a non-executive director. These appointments were to replace directors who have retired.

Pizza group finds recipe for growth

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

PIZZAEXPRESS aims to open a further 25 restaurants before the year end as the company continues to expand away from its London base.

The group opened 16 sites during the first half, including sites in Belfast and Lytham, Lancashire.

In the six months to December 31, pre-tax profits increased 54 per cent to £6.3 million as the company benefited from new openings and an increase in like-for-like sales. Overall turnover rose 57 per cent to £30.6 million.

The group acquired 29 franchised sites at the end of November for £25 million. In the seven weeks to December 31 these restaurants produced profits of £400,000 on sales of £2.2 million.

The company now owns a total of 119 restaurants and eight franchises. PizzaExpress said 40 per cent of the chain had been open for less than two years and should continue to show year-on-year growth. It is also aiming to accelerate its overseas expansion efforts having recently signed five franchise agreements.

PizzaExpress added that trading is brisk and that it is confident of a successful outcome to the year. Shares in the company closed up 2p at 560½p, compared with a rights issue price of 425p at the time of the franchise buy-back. The interim dividend rises 21 per cent to 0.85p a share, payable on April 7.

Tempus, page 28

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Recruitment specialist to float

BY FRASER NELSON

HARVEY NASH, a recruitment consultancy specialising in computer operators, is coming to the main market next month via a placing which should value the company at £45 million.

The company was set up nine years ago by David Higgins, Tom Crawford and David Treacher, who left Lloyd Chapman Associates and founded Harvey Nash with their own savings. The three, who are joint managing directors of the company, are now on course to share a paper fortune of £27 million.

Tom Crawford remortgaged his house

to finance his share of the start-up. He said: "It was some decision to take. We did wonder whether we'd done the right thing. We saw that computers would play an increasingly important role in business, which was quite an easy assumption, but it would have been hard to predict that the industry would go through the boom we're seeing now."

The company is expecting to return sales of £35 million for the year to January 31, an increase of 50 per cent. It predicts that the shortage of computer operators will become more acute, lifting average salaries in the industry and encouraging workers to leave permanent employment

for contract work, where they can often double their salary.

More than 20 per cent of revenue comes from overseas offices in Stuttgart and Zurich. The company expects the shortage of computer staff will encourage other European countries to loosen their labour regulations, and it plans to open more continental offices in preparation for this.

Harvey Nash plans to raise little more than its flotation costs through the placing, and come to the market when an investment opportunity presents itself. It eventually plans to provide its headhunting and contracting services to the financial, healthcare and retail sectors.

David Page, chief executive, plans more restaurants

THE
TIMES
CITY
DIARY

Doomsday
lasts all night

IT WAS an early start to the week for Christopher Garnett. Handing out refund claim forms at King's Cross station on Sunday night, the chief executive of GNER was doing his best to appease the hordes of harassed passengers after their heavily delayed journey from Edinburgh.

Wind had blown down powerlines, passengers had been misinformed, and the buffer had sold out. Accompanied by his daughter, who was on her way back to teacher training college in Durham, Garnett had prised himself from his house in Putney.

"It was a doomsday scenario," he tells me. From 6.30pm, he worked through the night before jumping on an early morning train to York, his home for three days a week. "My daughter told me that it was easier teaching eight-year-olds than dealing with aggrieved passengers," says Garnett.

Hanson winner

THE WINNER of the 1996 Hanson Achievement Award works for... Eastern Electricity. Lord Hanson and Derek Bonham, Hanson's departing deputy chairman, turned up in person yesterday to congratulate Jacqui Harding, who is a customer services call centre manager at Eastern Electricity, which is part of the Energy Group that yesterday broke away from the industrial conglomerate Sir Iain Vallance. BT chairman, was there to hand over the award.



"I hear they are moving this office to America"

Calling the shots

TONY BLAIR and Tony Banks crossed swords on Saturday on the launch of Radio Chelsea. Squeezed into a tiny studio with host David Mellor, the Labour MP let it be known that he had recently won at 66-1 on Chelsea to beat Liverpool 42. Faster than you can say Gianfranco Zola, Blair set to find out what Banks is betting on the election. Banks shot back: "I don't vote on elections, only on important issues."

BAMBIs Is it a deer? No, it's a "***** awful M&B". The latest edition of Venturespeak 2000, a right-heeled A-Z of terms published by 3i for the venture capital industry, informs me that this is when a management buy goes wrong.

Jet-setters

THE Gold brothers have launched their own private flight charter. Ralph and his younger brother, David, see Gold Air International as a solution to their heightened fears over flight safety standards. The airborne siblings, who both boast a pilot's licence, have so far invested £2 million in the operation at Biggin Hill, Kent. (David won the Malta Air Rally on three occasions.) The airline currently comprises two small planes and in addition has access to two jets. With 90 companies under their wing, the Golds' next big project is the flotation of Birmingham City Football Club. The airline will certainly make a difference when it comes to away games.

MORAG PRESTON



Judy Ledger with her daughter Sara, husband Tim, and sons James, back left, and Richard at a special baby care unit in Wolverhampton

Charity's brief but unwelcome brush with the price of fame

Jason Nissé on the misguided headlines that brought heartbreak to Baby Lifeline

WHEN Judy Ledger picked up a newspaper last August she had one of the shocks of her life. Baby Lifeline, the charity that she had formed 15 years previously after losing three prematurely born children in infancy, was featured in banner headlines as facing an investigation by the Charity Commissioners.

The article said that the charity had spent 83 per cent of the money it had raised on administration and only a fraction on the intensive-care equipment for babies that it was hoping to buy for hospitals. Ms Ledger, a former nurse, saw her life's work collapsing before her eyes.

In fact, Baby Lifeline was facing an evaluation by the Commissioners, which tends to follow a complaint. There were 1,255 of these in 1995 and only 255 of them led on to full investigations. And the Commissioners admit that all they did was to give Baby Lifeline advice on its administration and presentation.

Baby Lifeline was exposed to the full glare of publicity because of its relationship with one particularly famous patron, Sophie Rhys-Jones, the girlfriend of Prince Edward. Ms Rhys-Jones was working as national projects co-ordinator for the charity having been introduced to Baby Lifeline by Brian MacLaurin, a public relations man and her boss at the time. Charities like to be associated with celebrities because it brings free coverage in the media, and most celebrities like to ally themselves with charities to give themselves a caring image.

"Sophie was working with me exclusively for just one day a week," Ms Ledger recalls. "Her involvement brought a huge amount of publicity. Up until then it had been good but after this story there started to be bad coverage."

The charity's corporate sponsors were unsettled, though ultimately supportive. Safeway, the supermarket chain, was the only one to withdraw its backing but it returned to the fold as soon as it was able to convince itself that everything was in order. It is now sponsoring the latest Baby Lifeline promotion — Mother & Baby Week — that runs from 2 March.

However, the reaction from the man in the street was bad. The charity has a

decentralised structure, with a small head office in Coventry staffed by only three people, and 40 satellite groups run by volunteers. The groups collect money directly from the public and saw a dramatic falling off in the amount they were collecting. "One person came up to a collector and said: 'I'm not giving any money to you, you're all embezzlers'."

The fact was that Baby Lifeline had done nothing wrong. Its only crime was naivety in an increasingly cut-throat charity business. Ms Ledger believes that the accounts were leaked to the press by a rival charity. Even though the two charities are not doing the same work they found themselves going to the same sources for money and the leak strategy was attractive because Baby Lifeline's accounts for 1995 look quite bad.

The charity was expanding and had a large-scale launch at the Royal Albert Hall featuring celebrities, among them Dame Judi Dench and Anne Diamond. "It was a classic case of having

to speculate to accumulate. The event was to move us from being a very small charity to a national one," says Ms Ledger. The cost of the event was underwritten by Lloyds Chemicals. But instead of separating this expense out in its books, Baby Lifeline included the costs and income in the profit and loss account so that it looked like it was spending a fortune on promotions.

On top of this most of the money collected comes from the local groups. But they keep 80 per cent of what they collect, and give all of this to local hospitals, so that only one fifth went through Baby Lifeline's accounts. Of this about half would go on expenses and the other half to good causes. But the accounts were presented in such a way as to make it look as though Baby Lifeline spent 50 per cent on administration, not 10 per cent.

After talking to the Charity Commissioners, Ms Ledger made changes. The charity swapped accountants to Leigh Christou a firm that specialises in charity work, and KPMG has offered assistance. The board of the charity has also been changed adding in a medical advisory council and a high-powered business advisory group — the first member of which, Alan Jones of TNT, the distribution company, has been recruited. Ms Ledger is now looking to employ a professional fundraiser to manage the group's national projects.

As she points out the charity business has changed substantially in the 15 years since Baby Lifeline began. In those days the charity looked to any source it could for money and it was all rolled into a single pot. Today there are a host of charities competing for the "compassionate pound" and charities use all manner of means to promote themselves heavily, most usually by working with corporate sponsors.

Charities will approach a company to underwrite a promotion, or offer free advertising or services. For instance, supermarket carrier bags often carry charity advertisements. Help-Ads, an innovative scheme to raise money for the Red Cross, sells advertising space on the back of products or, lately, on sports team's shirts to related products, and takes the income. In the next few weeks Baby Lifeline will launch an affinity credit card backed by Bank of Scotland.

Ms Ledger expects that this year the charity will cover all its administrative costs from corporate backing. This means that money taken directly from the public goes straight to the charity. And the way of raising money has become more sophisticated. There are still people on street corners with collecting tins but more and more is coming from give-as-you-earn schemes or covenants, both of which attract tax relief for those giving, or from bequests, with many charities offering free will-making kits to encourage this.

For Baby Lifeline the short, sharp shock received has left it stronger in the end. But there has been one notable casualty. "Sophie, understandably, has to distance herself," Ms Ledger says, diplomatically. "She's no longer involved to the level she was."

□ Baby Lifeline can be contacted at Empathy Enterprise Building, Bramston Crescent, Tile Hill Lane, Tile Hill, Coventry CV4 9SW; or telephone 01203 44135.

Working partnership: Sophie Rhys-Jones, left, and Judy Ledger

Carrying the can for takeover leaks

From Mr M. J. Ward

SIR, Pennington has put his finger precisely on the point where responsibility should lie for the kind of leaks that disturb the Panel on Takeovers and Mergers and other City authorities ("The eleventh commandment", February 5). If firms such as Citigate are found to have given information to affect a takeover bid then their principal, in this case Triplett, should carry the can. No professional public relations practitioner would give any information of this kind without a nod of approval from the client.

He sees a rising rate as a weapon against inflation. In fact it is damaging to manu-

Interest rates must come down to avoid bloodletting of British industry

From Mr Austin Mitchell, MP for Great Grimsby (Labour)

SIR, The Governor of the Bank of England knows so little of economics or of the real world of making and selling things, that he just cannot understand the role of the exchange rate.

It is axiomatic that if the exchange rate rises, either wages are too low or interest rates are too high. The exchange rate can only be "competitive" when we can balance

facturing, and the consequences are already evident in reported losses and profit falls. That can only be the beginning when it takes up to a year for the consequences of exchange rate changes to come through.

It is axiomatic that if the exchange rate rises, either wages are too low or interest rates are too high. The exchange rate can only be "competitive" when we can balance

our trade in conditions of full employment at a high and stable rate of growth.

On any sane non-governatorial view, the huge rise in our exchange rate is clear evidence that interest rates must come down by 2 to 3 per cent immediately if we are not to see a third bloodletting of British industry just as Labour comes to power.

Doesn't the Governor real-

ise that unless the exchange

rate is competitive, imports rise, exports suffer and manufacturing cannot generate the profits it needs to invest and grow? If this nation still lives by manufacturing, and weakening it relegates us to a permanent balance of payments deficit, high unemployment and a permanent public sector deficit.

Yours faithfully,

AUSTIN MITCHELL,

House of Commons, SW1.

Sector Challenge extends scope of Government help to exporters

From the Minister for Trade

SIR, Tony Langford's letter on trade fairs of February 13 misses the point as to why we have introduced Sector Challenge as a means of enhancing UK competitiveness. This includes the important aspect of successful export promotion.

The Government considers it important to encourage our exporters to attend overseas trade fairs. We will continue to provide funds for a substantial number of trade fairs each year.

However, it is important that we ensure that the money is channelled to firms in the best possible way.

The Sector Challenge encourages businesses to propose new ways of using Government assistance which would not have been possible

under the Trade Fairs Support Scheme — for example, funding a series of events taking place over a number of years. The first round of Sector Challenge has been a huge success, with just over 600 outline bids for support in a range of projects including trade promotion.

The Trade Fair Support Scheme has always been over-subscribed and potential sponsors have to take part in an annual bidding round. The 300 successful TESS bids for 1997-98 were announced recently.

A further 60 bids for trade fair support were made under the first round of the Sector Challenge. Some of these take a broader strategic and innovative approach to the needs of their sectors as a whole and this is the type of bid which

Sector Challenge will encourage in relation to trade promotion.

The advisory panel has asked for about half of these initial applicants to work up their proposals in further detail. Final consideration for funding will take place in March.

Naturally we will review in the light of the first Sector Challenge how best to provide for future trade fair support within subsequent Challenges.

I very much hope businesses will continue to exploit the Government's support for trade fairs as a promotional vehicle for their products.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY NELSON,
Minister for Trade
Department of Trade and
Industry, 1 Victoria Street.

rate is competitive, imports rise, exports suffer and manufacturing cannot generate the profits it needs to invest and grow?

On any sane non-

governatorial view, the huge

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Doesn't the Governor real-

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rate is competitive, imports

rise, exports suffer and manu-

facturing cannot generate the

profits it needs to invest and

grow?

Yours faithfully,

TERENCE J. HOWES

4 Presbury Drive,

Wiltshire,

Wiltshire.

Alliance & Leicester offers the best distribution of shares to members

From Mr Michael Hardern

SIR, Your report of the Alliance & Leicester Action Group's last stand (February 4) brings some sympathy. The essence of their complaint is that they feel they were misled into leaving large sums in accounts at uncompetitive interest rates in the expectation of a greater windfall.

Alliance & Leicester has come out with by far the best distribution. Five out of six members get bigger windfalls: 80 per cent of savers and all borrowers are better off, while 50 per cent of savers and all borrowers get bonuses 50 per cent larger than under Halifax.

or Woolwich formulas. Alliance also allowed members to top up their accounts so they were not caught out by an announcement without the crucial £100 in their accounts.

Letters (February 4) touched on a "windfall tax on windfalls". Societies have not taken up the Demos think-tank suggestion that they give charity windfalls of 5 to 10 per cent for those not fortunate to have an account let alone a windfall. If the taxman steps in, they will have only themselves to blame.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HARDERN,
3 Rathbone Street,
W1.



Dangling the carrot of independence

THE City's teenage scribblers are now 30-something but from habit, still wary of Labour. In the face of Labour's huge poll lead, they have taken some solace in making dire predictions about the economic legacy likely to face a victorious Gordon Brown.

Toes, the conventional wisdom has it, will have to be raised sharply to return the public finances to health, and interest rates will have to be increased emphatically to head off another cycle of boom and bust. If anything, rates will be higher under Mr Brown than they would have been under Ken Clarke because Labour has to prove its anti-inflation credentials.

But none of this is necessarily the case. After last week's news of a huge repayment of borrowing, some City voices are becoming relatively optimistic on the public finances. And there are good reasons to think that interest rate expectations are far too pessimistic.

Labour's monetary policy enters the spotlight with a major speech from Mr Brown tomorrow on inflation. He is expected to reveal his inflation target — likely to be unchanged from the current one — and will flesh out Labour's relationship with the Bank of England.

For now, little substantive change is expected. There will still be monthly monetary meetings with a few presentational tweaks. For example, rate decisions will be announced directly after each meeting but this is not much different from now when it is pretty obvious within 24 hours whether rates have moved.

Where Labour does seem to offer something different is in its plans for Bank of England to be broadened. A Monetary Policy Committee comprising three or four outside experts as well as the Governor, Deputy Governor and two other Bank directors, would be set up. Another source of non-Bank influence would come from a reformed Court including members from industry, the unions and the regions, which would oversee the Committee.

Labour sells this as "depersonalising" the current process but this seems trivial compared with the real purpose — that is to break down the monotheism of the Bank's current statutory role, which is

higher rates would make the pound even stronger and just imagine a situation in which monetary union is postponed, the mark soars and European rates are slashed. Even if we believe that the fiscal position is brighter than it was, it would be harder to cut British rates and limit the pound's strength if there was a perception of fiscal laxity.

In any case, tighter fiscal, rather than monetary, policy is intrinsically attractive to give Labour more leeway for spending programmes and to rebalance the economy away from consumption.

None of this suggests that Labour will be looking down the barrel of an interest-rate shotgun aimed from Threadneedle Street.

Security Resource allocation by a renowned Swiss trust company

Rate of return

Equities close marginally lower

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1996/97	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	PE	1996/97	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	PE	1996/97	High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yield	PE
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES																							
526	495	475	Amber Beverage	475	6	12.1	13.4	527	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7	528	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7
527	475	455	Amber Group	455	1	1.1	12.7	528	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7	529	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7
529	475	455	Amber Group	455	1	1.1	12.7	530	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7	531	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7
530	475	455	Amber Group	455	1	1.1	12.7	531	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7	532	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7
531	475	455	Amber Group	455	1	1.1	12.7	532	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7	533	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7
532	475	455	Amber Group	455	1	1.1	12.7	533	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7	534	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7
533	475	455	Amber Group	455	1	1.1	12.7	534	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7	535	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7
535	475	455	Amber Group	455	1	1.1	12.7	536	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7	537	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7
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539	475	455	Amber Group	455	1	1.1	12.7	540	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7	541	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7
540	475	455	Amber Group	455	1	1.1	12.7	541	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7	542	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7
542	475	455	Amber Group	455	1	1.1	12.7	543	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7	544	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7
543	475	455	Amber Group	455	1	1.1	12.7	544	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7	545	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7
545	475	455	Amber Group	455	1	1.1	12.7	546	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7	547	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7
546	475	455	Amber Group	455	1	1.1	12.7	547	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7	548	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7
548	475	455	Amber Group	455	1	1.1	12.7	549	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7	550	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7
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564	475	455	Amber Group	455	1	1.1	12.7	565	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7	566	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7
566	475	455	Amber Group	455	1	1.1	12.7	567	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7	568	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7
568	475	455	Amber Group	455	1	1.1	12.7	569	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7	570	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7
570	475	455	Amber Group	455	1	1.1	12.7	571	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7	572	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7
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578	475	455	Amber Group	455	1	1.1	12.7	579	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7	580	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7
580	475	455	Amber Group	455	1	1.1	12.7	581	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7	582	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7
582	475	455	Amber Group	455	1	1.1	12.7	583	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7	584	422	395	Amersham Distillers	422	1	1.1	12.7
584	475	455	Amber																				



■ VISUAL ART 1

The scandal of the great 1910 Post-Impressionist exhibition is evoked afresh at the Barbican



■ VISUAL ART 2

Bodies beautiful and curious in Cambridge six artists respond to the male physique



■ VISUAL ART 3

Domestic items acquire a strange logic in Eric Bainbridge's new show in Manchester



■ VISUAL ART 4

... while the animal kingdom is explored, in Surreal style, in *The Lost Ark* in Glasgow

VISUAL ART: Richard Cork on a Barbican homage to pioneers of Post-Impressionism; plus other shows

Those mad British moderns

Roger Fry wanted his first great Post-Impressionist exhibition to give London a seismic shock. And he succeeded beyond his headiest expectations. Many visitors to the Grafton Galleries, a prominent West End showcase, found themselves reeling at the impact of Cézanne, Gauguin and Van Gogh. The canvases triggered what Fry's collaborator, Desmond MacCarthy, described as "the Art Quake of 1910", and Fry himself likened the "news-paper abuse from all quarters" to "a wild hurricane".

Most of the paintings on view, in a survey where Manet was seen as the starting-point, had been produced in the 19th century. But to the astounded British public, they seemed like the last word in mad modernity. Nobody could continue to ignore the revolution in European art any longer. However enraged the protests, Fry's show marked a watershed. Between 1910 and the outbreak of the Great War, London became an aesthetic battleground where rival avant-garde groups struggled to outdo each other in provocative boldness.

This is the turbulent subject of the Barbican Art Gallery's latest exhibition. Selected by Anna Gruetzmacher Robins, and based on her detailed research into the flurry of innovative shows staged in London during those four effervescent years, it captures the restless vitality of an extraordinary period. As one of the exhibition's consultants, I must declare an interest. But the achievement belongs to Dr Robins alone, and she must be congratulated for steering a coherent path through the thicket of controversy sparked by Fry's pioneering initiative.

The British appetite for innovative art was transformed by Fry's 1910 exhibition. Although the Barbican could not hope to reassemble the riches displayed there, it has borrowed some of the key paintings Fry secured for his show. Gauguin's lazily sensual *Tahitian Women Bathing* stands out. But Van Gogh's *Pietà* has all the ferocity that prompted some critics to accuse him of insanity, and Cézanne's *The Viaduct at L'Estaque* possesses the majestic authority which made Fry hail him as the "father of modern art".

The 1910 exhibition would have a profound effect on a

whole generation of young British artists. One painter, however, had already absorbed Post-Impressionist lessons: Augustus John, whose show containing 48 idyllic little oil panels opened in the same month. The lure of commissioned portraits took John in a less adventurous direction, but Cézanne and Gauguin fascinated other, more challenging artists.

When the Stafford Gallery displayed these two masters in 1911, Spencer Gore was quick to paint a delightful picture of connoisseurs appraising the Gauguin exhibits. The Gauguins won over most of the critics who had reviled him in 1910, and five of his pictures now belonged to a major new English collector: Michael Sadler, enthusiastically supported by his son. If our public collections had followed suit, Gauguin would not now be so poorly represented at the National Gallery.

Similar regrets come to mind when we realise just how magnificently Matisse was represented in Fry's second Post-Impressionist survey, a far more up-to-date and startling sequel staged in 1912. Matisse and Picasso were its audacious cornerstones. Both men had been included in the 1910 venture, but only with relatively restrained work. Now they were seen at their most headlong. The whole range of Picasso's Cubist experiments was revealed in London for the first time, and his facility widely acknowledged. Even the most sympathetic reviewers confessed to puzzlement, though. And one painting in particular, his 1909-10 *Woman and Mustard Pot*, became a target for their jibes.

Fry's finest coup lay, however, in his astonishing group of Matisses. The sublime *Red Studio* was there, containing within its crimson-saturated surface a scintillating summary of the paintings and sculpture he was working on at the time. The first version of *The Dance*, flanked by two of his bronzes, proved how ecstatic Matisse could be when tackling figures on the grand scale. As for *Goldfish and Sculpture*, this strangely submarine canvas showed how far he could simplify line and colour in order to bewitch the eye.

All three of these seductive paintings now belong to the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and could not be



Smiling Woman Ascending A Stair (1911-12) by Wyndham Lewis, who helped the British avant-garde to come of age

lent to the Barbican. But in 1912, when Matisse's prices ranged from £33 to £136, some of his greatest work could easily have been bought by our public collections. The Tate Gallery was so opposed to Matisse that as late as the 1940s it turned down the chance to buy *The Red Studio* itself for a fraction of its daunting value today.

But if our gallery directors and trustees disgraced themselves over Matisse, several British artists in 1912 were quick to learn from him. The most ardent of his admirers, Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant, were included in a special English section of Fry's exhibition. They are both seen at their liveliest in the Barbican.

can, and sometimes come as close to each other as Braque and Picasso in the same year. But Bell and Grant were only part of a substantial home-grown group selected for Fry's show, and two of the others — Wyndham Lewis and Edward Wadsworth — would soon be implacably opposed to the Bloomsbury artists.

The division between them began when the Italian Futurists invaded London. Their 1912 show at the Sackville Gallery proclaimed the importance of the dynamic, machine-dominated power of 20th-century life. Fry hated their blurred, speed-obsessed rhapsodies as much as he deplored their flair for noisy, aggressive publicity. But plenty of British

artists were impressed. Even in Scotland, where Fauvism had already found ardent followers in Ferguson, Peploe and Rorie, Stanley Cusiter became converted to the Italians' sudden cause for a brief yet crisply energetic period.

Other Young Turks, most notably David Bomberg and Henri Gaudier-Brzeska, had no desire to become acolytes of a continental movement. Nor had Wyndham Lewis. His spectacular painting *Kermesse*, originally produced for Madame Strindberg's underground cabaret club The Cave of the Golden Calf, stood out in Rutter's show. It confirmed his stature among the Cubist-influenced British artists.

By the time the Whitechapel

■ THEATRE & STAGE

THE FRONT of a chest of drawers, a complete stuffed chair, shining fluorescent tubes, lamps, sockets, drawers and string — all these are displayed, without reference to good or bad taste in complete or sawn-up form, in a show of work made by Eric Bainbridge over the past six years. It takes place on all three floors at Cornerhouse, and is almost shocking when viewed for the first time.

But the artist's struggle to tread the fine line between expressive decay and delicacy soon becomes apparent. Ultimately this subtle series of arrangements, collages, reliefs and drawings jog the imaginative memory, and brings back a host of diverse associations. Now and then a small clay figure placed among the objects acts as a decoy, perhaps to wrongfoot any overtly heavy interpretation.

Cornerhouse, 70 Oxford Street, Manchester M1 5NH (0161-228 7621), until March 23

□ IT IS a truism that animals have the potential to be horrible, dangerous, powerful and vengeful. Now an artistic reflection of man's relation to nature has been mounted by the curator Francis McKee, whose exhibition *The Lost Ark* is currently on show at the CCA. Pieces range from the Victorian vanities of Simon Costin — in which tableaux of stretched mouse pelt, claw brooch, beaks and stuffed animals make up a scene of strange drawing-room manners — through to Douglas Gordon's *B-Movie*, showing sinister vampire bats and diseased horses projected on a large scale.

The painter Alexis Rockman, whose work seems to lie at the root of the exhibition, is now working in collages of real elements: sand, rocks, dead rat and tubular fish-tank apparatus. One of Rose Thomas's small sculptural pieces shows a wolf having frantic sex with an upturned many-breasted doe, while Kate Smith's soundpiece necessitates active participation to reveal an audio documentary on pigeon-keeping.

Centre for Contemporary Arts, 350 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow G1 (0141-332 7521), until March 8

SACHA CRADDOCK

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EVENING STANDARD AWARDS

BEST COMEDY

LAURENCE OLIVIER AWARDS

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"ART"

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Translated by Christopher Hampton
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Cambridge provides a showcase for the enduring power of the human figure in the hands of six male sculptors

Our heavenly bodies

Ever since the dumpy Woman from Willendorf was carved in the Palaeolithic period, the figure has provided sculptors with their most abiding obsession. Richard Cork writes.

Even in the 20th century, when this automatic dominance was challenged with such vigour, the human form refused to be eclipsed. And now, as the century's end approaches, the body's obstinate ability to endure is celebrated in a stimulating Cambridge show.

All six of the artists selected for the Kettle's Yard exhibition are men. And far from favouring female subjects, like so many sculptors of the past, they focus mostly on the male anatomy. Just how embattled the figure has become in modern sculpture is proved in the first room, where Anthony Caro's early work asserts its potent presence. Caro's figurative pieces of the 1950s have often been overlooked, but these youthful bronzes are hugely impressive.

On a small scale, Caro works with great fluidity. *Pulling on a Girdle* is a spiralling, robustly modelled distillation of the energy and strain involved in an everyday act. But the larger images possess an authentic grandeur. *Man Taking off his Shirt* is especially powerful, with the rock-like arms projecting into space as forcefully as some of Caro's later, leaner forms.

In his case, the exhibits make us realise how far bodily sensations may continue to inform his seemingly abstract sculpture. But his near-

contemporary, Eduardo Paolozzi, has remained more openly loyal to the figure. His earliest exhibit, *Mr Crukshank*, was made in 1950 from a model produced to measure irradiation on the human skull. Apart from casting the original wooden head in bronze, Paolozzi did little to change it. Even so, *Mr Crukshank* looks surprisingly like his later heads, made after the artist returned to figurative concerns in the 1980s. They are more grotesque and, at times, unsettling than their smoothly sectioned 1950 predecessor.

When Leonard McComb started making his *Young Man Standing* in 1963, British sculptors' interest in the figure was at its lowest ebb. So McComb's determination to produce a lifelike body, based on long scrutiny of a posed model, seemed like an outright act of defiance. Not finally completed in its polished bronze form until 1977, the figure looks stubborn enough as he bunches his right fist and gazes purposefully forward. His air of assurance reflects McComb's own resolve, making a man of gleaming wholeness to prove that sculpture's traditional subject still had resonance.

One young sculptor who emerged in the 1970s shared some of McComb's concerns. *Young Man Standing* looks as if it might have

been cast from life, and parts of John Davies's early figures really are. The impact of his 1972 show at the Whitechapel Art Gallery rested on

the eerie suspicion that the men installed there could be alive. Dressed in worn, ill-fitting suits, the figures seemed to be embroiled in some bizarre, humiliating ritual. One of them, crowned by a large dunce's hat and a false nose, kneels between a couple of battered chairs. He appears to accept a punitive judgment pronounced by the two standing men nearby, one of whom has bird attached to his face.

Later on, Davies moved away from his reliance on casting from life. His big heads of the 1990s at Kettle's Yard are more bland in their expression, and modelled in readiness for casting in bronze. But the sense of strangeness lingers.

Victor Newsome, who also uses the body as a vehicle for emotional privation, is represented by drawings alone. But they are clearly the work of a sculptor — or rather, an artist who turned from sculpture to painting. These drawings mark his period of transition. They look, at first, like studies for carvings in wood. And the blank-faced, mannequin-like female figures they contain seem to be framed by round niches. Then we realise that Newsome might be adopting an aerial view. Seen in this light, the statues are transformed into women lying in baths devoid of

water. Carefully plotted by meticulous lines of measurement, they bear a disconcerting resemblance to corpses.

At least one of the five cast-iron figures in Antony Gormley's room might be dead. He certainly lies on the floor, bent in the middle like the other four occupants of this high, narrow space. The more I looked at him, though, the less cadaverous he became. For his pose is identical to his companions, and they all appear painfully alert. *Testing a World View* is Gormley's collective title for the work, but the prevailing emotion centres on frustration and helplessness. One figure rams his head against the wall, as if longing to break through the room's physical limits. Another adopts a jack-knife position, with buttocks in the air and toes and forehead touching the floor.

Each of these figures appears enclosed in a mood of extreme isolation, most notably the man who hangs down from a veritable height on the wall. All cast from Gormley himself, they seem to embody five states of mind. But he removes them from autobiography by stressing their status as simplified images of Everyman, and their rusty, pitted surfaces give them an immemorial aura. Based on a living 20th-century nude, they nevertheless reach back to the very origins of sculptural expression.

• *Bodyworks*, supported by the Henry Moore Foundation, is at Kettle's Yard, Cambridge (01223 352124) until Sunday

13 FEBRUARY 1997

LAW

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Anthony Scrivener, QC, protests about a growing trend in the press



Wrongful convictions? Three of the men jailed in the Carl Bridgewater case on the day of their release 18 years after conviction

Mistrial by media?

Colin Stagg was acquitted of murder, but that did not stop the *Daily Mail* from challenging his acquittal. Three of the young men acquitted of the murder of Stephen Lawrence were likewise accused by the *Daily Mail*. In each case the newspaper challenged those acquitted to sue for defamation. It was a safe threat to make. Legal aid is not available for libel proceedings.

The paper implied that in the Stagg case an irregular procedure had been adopted. No jury had been empanelled and the judge had made the decision. There was in fact nothing unusual about the procedure. The judge had been asked to rule on the admissibility of evidence; in the light of that ruling, the prosecution did not proceed because it was bound to fail.

In the case of the Lawrence murder, Barbara Mills, QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, on the advice of senior counsel, decided that there was not sufficient evidence to charge anyone. A private prosecution was brought which showed the DPP was correct. The judge threw it out because there was not enough evidence to leave the case to the jury; again a common procedure.

Publicity may make a fair trial impossible and frustrate any further court proceedings

ted, and in the other, the man now being accused over Bridgewater was never charged — not even by the old West Midlands Police Force.

If James Hainratty obtains a posthumous pardon in the case of the A6 murder, as it came to be called, the media already have an ideal candidate available for attack. After this length of time, he is rather old, but he certainly cannot afford to bring libel proceedings in the same way.

that in defamation proceedings, the fact that a person "stands convicted" is conclusive evidence of that fact.

The Birmingham Six, while imprisoned for a crime they did not commit, sought to bring civil proceedings that would have brought their convictions into question. The action was struck out as being an abuse of process.

The law does not protect an accused in the same way.

ings. He is another safe target. In the 17th century the infamous Judge Jeffreys claimed that he was "clamour-proof", but that was before we had the tabloid press.

The law protects the sanctity of a conviction. In 1964, Alfie Hinds managed to persuade a jury in defamation proceedings that his conviction by a criminal court was wrong. This brought about a change in the law. Section 13 of the Civil Evidence Act, 1968, was quickly enacted. This provides

There is nothing to prevent those who have suffered loss as a result of a murder from bringing civil proceedings after an acquittal in criminal proceedings. In the case of O.J. Simpson in America, civil proceedings were brought after his acquittal.

Bringing a prosecution which fails means no further criminal proceedings can be brought, even if new evidence is discovered. This is why prosecutions should not be launched if the evidence is not strong enough. It is better to wait in case further evidence becomes available. In the case of Seddon & Brooks, the Seddon family successfully brought civil proceedings for damages for the death of a young daughter.

Once the civil judgment was obtained, the police brought criminal proceedings and Brooks was later tried and convicted of murder. Civil proceedings are properly conducted in a court with proper representation and rules of evidence to ensure a fair trial.

There can be no fairness in a media trial. The newspaper can put forward its case in headlines that will attract the attention of millions. The best the accused can do is to get his or her side of the case pub-

lished in a letter. Worse still, the publicity may make a fair trial impossible and frustrate any further court proceedings. Since the accused will not have sufficient funds to bring defamation proceedings, he remains acquitted by the criminal court but unable to prevent stories from the media questioning the verdict.

The media play a valuable role in revealing unjust convictions and there is no legal reason they should not criticise an acquittal. But if they are really concerned with justice, they should assist the relatives of the murder victim to start civil proceedings for damages and not jeopardise those proceedings by publicity.

• The article about divorce court costs will be published next week

Will he, won't he?

MARTIN MEARS may not be contesting the presidency of the Law Society this summer after all. His running-mate, Robert Sayer, may go for the top job while he opts instead for the vice-presidency.

Mr Mears says: "We have pretty well concluded that Robert should stand for the presidency. The reason is that if we win, we would want to keep on *Caterpillar* (their "alternative" Law Society magazine) as our publicity machine. But I emphasise that nothing is concluded."

Double whammy
A SENTENCE in a missive from the Lord Chancellor's Department to the Bar Council, during tense negotiations over its proposed new civil standard-fee system, reads: "We do not believe that our present scheme cannot be improved and we remain willing to consider any alternative scheme you can suggest that meets the Lord Chancellor's aims for standard fees."

In *Counsel* magazine, Robert Owen, QC, the Chairman

of the Bar Council, comments dryly: "When you strip out the double negative, it appears to indicate both that the scheme can be improved, and that alternatives to a standard fee scheme will be considered."

Plus ça change
A NEW exhibition of the history of legal robes was opened by Lord Bingham of Cornhill, the Lord Chief Justice, in the Royal Courts of Justice last week. However, as the Court Service put it, "Legal professional dress has changed little over the centuries, matching the continuity of the English legal

system." In fact, the exhibition was originally on view in 1974, in a corridor near the entrance to the Law Courts. Now redesigned, it has been moved to the court gallery at the other end of the building.

• THE national management skills competition — the Prospects 1997 Cup — is beginning to be dominated by law firms. A team of trainees from Lowell White Durrant won the finals held recently at the University of East Anglia. Teams from Berwin Leighton, Dundas & Wilson and Clifford Chance were among the five finalists.

Meet Mortimer

JOHN MORTIMER, QC, left the writer and barrister, will be joined by two actresses in presenting *Mortimer's Miscellany* at Middle Temple Hall tomorrow evening. Described as an evening of reminiscence and humour, it will be in aid of Redress, the charity which works for the reparation of torture victims.

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Our advice to lawyers in this position is to hang on to their following if it's substantial, and to join a firm which suits it. For older lawyers, it's their security, their badge of success, the key asset that will make them attractive on the job market when the next economic downturn arrives. A return to the City is tempting, a regard for reputation. But having been through difficult times since they last left the City, they need to think carefully before stripping themselves of their hard-won survival kit.

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Adopting new values

Will government plans for adoption help or hinder? asks Chris Barton

Jilly Cooper starts her novel *Appassionata* with the hero, Rupert Campbell-Black, dashing to Bogota to buy an adoptive child. By page nine, he has shot at a taxi, beaten up a policeman and decided against a cocaine deal. But we are on his side: his earlier attempts to adopt a British child have been met with "endless" KGB-style interrogations by social workers". Will the changes to the Adoption Regulations, announced last week by Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, be sufficient to ease such horrors from our system?

Ministers will recall that previous forays into domestic relations, such as the Child Support Acts 1991-93 and the Family Law Act 1996, brought fighting, crashing out of apparently cloudless skies. Are there any votes in adoption, whose numbers were down by 16 per cent in 1995? At 5,000-plus children, that represents one for every ten children in care, or one for every 45 born to unmarried parents — or one for every 30 whose parents were divorced.

Adoption is thus the most precious subject in family law. Demand outstrips supply and we employ an army of officials to referee the competition. Contraception, abortion, acceptance of non-marital and one-parent families, and a policy of patience with regard to children in local authority care, have all militated against parenthood by displace-

ment. Short of further raids overseas — which would break the Hague Convention — there are only two ways to help to shorten the odds: take more children from their birth parents, and/or open up the stepchild market.

Take more children from their birth parents? That would be the sweetest privatisation yet. Our social workers are so unproductive. They are content merely to give away children at an estimated rate of one per 40 customers. Legislation could open up this market, thereby privatising the cost which might otherwise fall on the State.

Under the draft Bill, originally intended for last year's Queen's Speech, the welfare of the child would be the "paramount", and not merely the "first" consideration in adoption proceedings. It would extend the criteria in Children Act 1989 proceedings from the usual two customers, the child's parents, to those 40 or so taken for every

child who comes on the market. But instigating paramountcy into adoption law could lead to a redistribution of our children. The welfare of the child would sanction not just the adoption order, as at present, but could also initiate the removal of a child from its natural parent(s) and dispense with the need for parental consent.

At the moment, there are two vital bulwarks to prevent adoption being used against any parents whose performance might be bettered. The first is that the natural parent(s) must have voluntarily let their children out of their hands, except where the child is in care.

The second is that the harshest ground for the overriding of parental dissent is the latter's unreasonableness, not the paramountcy of the welfare of the child. At its most interventionist, the new approach would require, not merely permit, the court to deprive the original parent(s) of the child, solely by

reference to the welfare principle. Only parents who are rightly confident that no one could raise their children better than they could be wise to view this manner with equanimity.

At the moment, the likelihood of significant harm caused by bad parenting is the sole criterion whereby a child can be taken into local authority care, and it does not sever the parental link. Yet the new proposal would permit the ultimate intervention for far lesser reason.

Increasing step-parent adoption would be a less controversial step. In 1995, applications made by a divorced parent and "her" new spouse accounted for over half of the total orders made. Under the draft Bill, deregulation would be achieved mainly by reference to these reconstituted families. The incoming social parent would be eligible for "mere" parental responsibility in addition to, and not instead of, the absent biological parent. That would be available either on the agreement of both birth parents or by court order.

At one stroke it would lower the stakes and reduce bureaucracy. Fully fledged adoption would still be available to step-parents and still be denied to cohabitants, so the law would continue to be seen to favour marriage.

• The author is Professor of Family Law at the University of Staffordshire.

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weariness. He says: "About once a decade for the past 150 years, someone has tried to corner the market in a major commodity. It always ends in tears."

Most of the physical work is fairly predictable. As Mr Moss comments: "In general, on the physical side, the issues are fairly stable. It's usually the same old points coming up again and again."

The more edgy work is in the derivatives field where bets are laid, in effect, on the future movement of prices. As Andrew Lyne of Ince & Co points out, it is not in the nature of dealers to check with their lawyers before making innovative or opportunistic deals.

Mr Black has made a name for himself as one of the leading commodities lawyers in London but, as he points out, "sometimes one just outgrows the firm one is with. I felt I could provide a better service to my clients and fulfil the talents of my associates by setting up on my own."

Mr Black is unusual in so far as he covers virtually the whole gamut of commodities work from what is regarded as the rather pedestrian "physical" end (transactions associated with the ship-

ping and delivery of commodities) through to the highly volatile derivatives market in which Hamanaka was active.

Eric Betzheim, the distinguished commodities lawyer based in the London office of the American firm Mayer Brown & Platt, is confident that the crisis in copper will pass. "The Sumitomo case does not pose a systemic threat to the LME," he says. "The important thing is that Sumitomo was able to meet its obligations. The same thing happened when ING took over Barings. So long as the bills are paid, there is no real problem."

Despite the massive scale of the Hamanaka case, Mr Betzheim regards it with a certain degree of

CHANGES TO THE LAWS ON ADOPTION

- Applicants entitled to see reports on their suitability.
- Applicants entitled to appeal.
- Adoption panels must have three "lay" members.
- Adoption panels must try to include those who have successfully adopted children previously, plus those who have themselves been adopted.

• The author is Professor of Family Law at the University of Staffordshire.

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We are a successful internationally-based US law firm. We are seeking an ambitious New York qualified lawyer to be based in our London offices. S/he will work closely with our New York office on the privatisation of utilities in Pakistan and Bangladesh and other project finance work.

The successful candidate will be at least 4 years qualified, with experience of working in general corporate and project finance law in an international environment, specifically Pakistan.

Fluency in Urdu would be an advantage.
Salary £65,000 - £68,000
Replies to Box No 3183

Our client, a young, entrepreneurial business group with a strong financial base, is looking to diversify into other business sectors outside their core of marketing database services. This Board appointment is an exceptional opportunity for a highly talented and commercially astute

DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

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Reporting directly to the Owner/Chairman you will have sole responsibility for all legal matters affecting the group. This will include liaising with external advisors, overseeing and advising on acquisitions, disposals, litigation, employment and taxation law, intellectual property rights as well as property purchase and disposal. As a key advisor to the various businesses, dealing with issues at the earliest stage, your commercial legal experience will enhance the quality of decision making within the Company.

Please apply in writing with full CV and salary details to Richard Edmondson, Mercuri Urval Limited, Peat House, 45 Church Street, Birmingham B3 2RT, quoting reference 1902/212.

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CORPORATE LAWYERS

WHAT DO YOU *get* FOR
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IS DEVELOPING AS *fast* AS WE ARE?

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Fee income in our corporate department grew by 38% in 1996. We are ranked by the Legal 500 as a leading, medium-sized, commercial, City firm highly rated for both our M&A and M&A work.

Corporate partners made up in 1996 included one that had less than 7 years' pge and one who had just returned from maternity leave. We have a Head of Department aged 37.

Our growing success means we are looking for more corporate lawyers with 1-4 years' pge. We can offer something different. An internal culture which both motivates and supports. A growing client base which produces a rapid turnover of high quality deals. With us, a variety of work is guaranteed, not a privilege. We will help you to build on your technical excellence and to be more innovative and creative in your approach. Naturally, we will pay you a top City salary.

Our sense of purpose is to be the best. If yours matches ours and you want to get on fast, we would like to meet you.

To find out more about Berwin Leighton and opportunities in the corporate department, please contact our retained consultants Stephen Rodney or Alison Jacobs on 0171-405 6062 (0171-377 0510 (0181-940 6848 evenings/weekends) 3079/0171-731 5699 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-631 6394.

BERWIN LEIGHTON

MUSIC INDUSTRY ORGANISATION COMMERCIAL/IP LAWYER

2-4 years' pge from private practice To £45,000 + benefits

Our client, a leading music industry organisation located in Central London, wishes to appoint a legal adviser to join its team. The successful candidate will be a commercial lawyer from private practice with between 2 and 4 years pge.

The appointment involves providing advice on all legal implications of the organisation's business, advising and lobbying senior UK government and EC representatives, and monitoring developments in music industry related worldwide copyright treaties, European Directives and domestic legislation.

As well as a good knowledge of intellectual property and copyright issues, the successful applicant will have a practical approach to legal matters coupled with a keen awareness of their commercial implications. There is frequent contact with other leading media organisations and good negotiating skills are therefore required.

A key attribute will be the ability to communicate well with senior executives in the industry and because the music industry is truly international, it would be helpful, although not essential, to have a good knowledge of one or more foreign languages.

Reporting to the Chief Executive, this is a rare and exciting opportunity to start a career in one of this country's most dynamic and successful industries. There is a friendly working environment and the excellent salary which is supplemented by attractive benefits, reflects the importance of the appointment.



For further information in complete confidence, please contact June Miesler or Kate Sutcliffe (both qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0181-789 9933 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougall In-house Legal, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-631 6394. The assignment is being handled on an exclusive basis by Quarry Dougall In-house Legal and all direct or third party applications will be forwarded to them.

LAWYER TO COVER MATERNITY LEAVE

Virgin Interactive Entertainment is looking for a lawyer with a minimum of 3 years experience to join its Legal and Business Affairs Department to cover maternity leave for approximately 4 months. You will need to have good organisational skills and be detail oriented. Above all you will need to be commercially effective and able to work within a dynamic team environment. You should be legally qualified in the UK and have experience in contract and copyright law as well as experience of media contracts if possible. Experience of the Multi Media industry and/or EC Competition issues would be a great advantage.

Send your CV with covering letter to the Human Resources Team at Virgin Interactive Entertainment, 2 Kensington Square, London W8 5RB.

Closing date for applications Friday March 7th.

BANKING LAWYER

Hammond Suddards, one of the UK's largest commercial law firms, is seeking to employ a lawyer with one to two years post qualification experience in the banking field for their London office. Of particular interest would be experience in standard form documents in the commercial banking field. Separately, lawyers with trade finance experience are also required.

We are an equal opportunities employer and can offer an attractive salary and benefits package, working in a pleasant non-smoking environment.

Please forward your curriculum vitae and covering letter to: Monica Ambrus, Personnel Officer, Hammond Suddards, Moor House, 119 London Wall, London EC2Y 5ET.

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You will be involved in UK and international merger clearances, MMC inquiries, OFT investigations and advice on the RTPA and Articles 85 and 86. Many of our clients operate in industries with their own competition law based regulators, including the ITC, OFTEL and their international equivalents.

You do not need to have experience of the media and communications industries but you will be able to combine excellent competition law experience with a strongly commercial approach and be keen to take responsibility for helping us further develop our practice in this area.

For further information in complete confidence, please contact our consultants, Jonathan Brenner or Yvonne Smyth, on 0171-377 0510 (0181-940 6848 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Zarak Macrae Brenner, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax: 0171-247 5174. E-mail: jonathan@zmb.co.uk

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The Role

As a key member of operational management and the European legal team, you will be responsible for legal advice on all matters affecting the facility including procurement arrangements, logistics/distribution activities, regulatory requirements and employment issues. You will need to work closely with the Corporation's worldwide team of lawyers.

The Person

UK, US or Irish qualified you will have at least four years commercial law experience, ideally gained in a multinational corporation. You will need the practical proactive business approach required for a fast-moving environment and you should enjoy teamwork but also be able to operate independently.

Dell Computer Corporation have instructed Laurence Simons International on an exclusive basis and any direct or third party applications will be forwarded to them. Please contact Naveen Tuli or Laurence Simons personally.

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This top 20 City firm offers senior and junior IP partners from their first practice the chance to take a lead role in its highly innovative and important IP department. The work spans around 70/30 in favour of contentious/non-contentious matters and you will be expected to bring some good contacts with you. Ref: T36381

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

To £55,000

An excellent opportunity for a commercial litigation specialist with 18 months' to 4 years' pge at another leading practice to join this highly respected top 10 firm. You have every right to expect to work for the very best clients and enjoy the very best prospects, and you won't be disappointed. Ref: T48164

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

To £60,000

If you are good enough, you will make partner at this well-known City firm. There is absolutely no bar to partnership here and property lawyers with 3-5 years' pge are excellent salary and client contact. Work will involve investment, development, corporate support and financial related matters. Ref: T28162

COMPETITION/MEDIA

To £53,000

Become a major EU/competition star at this highly-rated top 20 City firm. Your work will have a heavy bias towards media work but will also employ you on a range of more general matters. A great move for a lawyer with 3-5 years' pge, not necessarily all in media, but some regulatory experience would help. Ref: T29668

CORPORATE

To £60,000

The London office of this major national firm reflects the exceptionally vibrant nature of its growth and business. It is an exciting place for corporate lawyers with 2-3 years' pge in the City and strong personalities who can expect to make real and rapid progress working for some household names. Ref: T19991

PENSIONS

To £60,000

If you want to be taken seriously as a pensions lawyer, look no further than the City firm, arguably the leading niche practice in the country. It is currently swamped with work for a string of blue-chip clients and now needs pensions lawyers with 3-5 years' pge to come and build his or her reputation. Ref: T37754

PROPERTY LITIGATION

To £42,000

This is your chance to work at one of the City's leading corporate firms and enjoy the challenges thrown up by acting for some of the country's leading companies. An excellent opportunity for a property litigation lawyer with 2-3 years' pge to shine at a firm renowned for its friendly atmosphere. Ref: T21518

INSOLVENCY

To £120,000

If you can fill the major gap in this top 10 City firm's corporate practice, you will be handsomely rewarded. It needs a senior insolvency lawyer - with a top reputation but not necessarily following - to build up its practice in this area. It has a strong existing corporate client base, so bring your team. Ref: T37759

BANKING

To £20,000

This very noteworthy firm has big expansion plans and can offer exceptional responsibility to a commercial property lawyer with 2-4 years' pge - you'll be working unsupervised. Work includes development, sale and purchase of residential and office property, landlord and tenant, and corporate support. Ref: T29181

COMERCIAL PROPERTY

To £39,000

The London office of this major Birmingham firm can offer exceptional responsibility to a commercial property lawyer with 2-4 years' pge - you'll be working unsupervised. Work includes development, sale and purchase of residential and office property, landlord and tenant, and corporate support. Ref: T29181

CONSTRUCTION

To £40,000

This firm is niche and proud of it. It has a reputation for very high quality work in a number of areas, including construction, and will look very good on your CV. It is also a very nice place to work. Construction lawyers with 1-3 years' pge must be happy with a mix of contentious and non-contentious work. Ref: T28332

CORPORATE FINANCE

To £50,000

The top 20 City firm encourages you to keep your options open - it doesn't want you to specialize too early. You can therefore expect a good range of corporate and corporate finance work together with excellent prospects. All you need are 1-4 years' pge and good marketing skills. Ref: T25271

SENIOR TAX

To £55,000

A very exciting opportunity has arisen for a heavy-lifting tax lawyer to set up a tax office at this major Birmingham firm's London office. You will be offered real scope to develop the practice, along with a very attractive package. There is simply a lot to do, so technical skills and pedigree are essential. Ref: T32498

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Deborah Delaporte, Alison Jacobs or Sarah David (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0181-520 6559 or 0171-731 5699 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-631 6394.

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Platinum has set out an ambitious acquisition programme to identify the best products available and to acquire the best services and management talent in the industry to form an unbeatable alliance of talent and technology. Deriving 24% of current revenue outside North America, its wholly owned subsidiaries throughout Europe, Asia and South Africa are set to double that figure by the year 2000.

As part of this anticipated growth internationally, Platinum Technology seeks a European Counsel to be based at their UK headquarters. You will have:

- at least 5 years' broad-ranging international commercial experience with excellent negotiation and drafting skills on a range of contracts including software, franchising, licensing, distribution and agency agreements, as well as corporate transactional experience, particularly acquisitions. A good basic knowledge of EC/competition law is also crucial to this role
- a solution-driven approach, which will thrive in this highly competitive and fast changing market
- the ambition and enthusiasm to develop this role by establishing your credibility quickly and in due course developing and managing a structured and motivated legal team.

You will be stretched to new heights of commitment and capacity. In return you can expect an excellent remuneration package which will include a car, pension and bonus.

QD If this is the challenge you have been waiting for, please contact Jane Masié or Rebecca Errington (both qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0171-357 0912 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Daugell In-House Legal, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4H. Confidential fax: 0171-631 6394. This assignment is being handled on an exclusive IN-HOUSE LEGAL basis by Quarry Daugell In-House Legal and all direct or third party applications will be forwarded to them.

CITY ASSISTANTS

PLANNING / ENVIRO

to £45,000
P Plan the perfect career move! This renowned City practice has an unparalleled reputation for its planning / environmental expertise. U and now seeks a 1-3 years' PQE solicitor to handle a broad spread of instructions from a blue chip client base.

CONSTRUCTION

to £45,000
Few firms can offer the quality of expertise working environment and array of national and international clients of this Top 10 firm. S The high performing construction group seeks a confident, personable non-contentious solicitor (0-3 years' PQE).

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

to £48,000
T Well structured, profitable and expanding our client is a City-based firm with a successful, over-stretched property department acting for developers, investors and overseas governments in addition to general corporate clients. An ambitious young solicitor with 0-2 W years' PQE and a solid grounding in property, intellectually strong and with a sense of humour is unlikely to find a better home.

INSOLVENCY

to £48,000
R End of recession? No-one going bust? They don't believe the K politicians' clients in the leading insolvency unit of this top City firm. Excellent prospects await a 2-4 years' PQE non-contentious solicitor.

CO / COMM or IT.

to £38,000
F Our client is a niche City firm boasting a high profile (eg sponsor of O international IT conferences), expanding IT Dept. Exceptional new R opportunity awaits an ambitious assistant with 0-3 years' PQE commercial law experience, wishing to specialise in this field (previous IT experience is not a pre-requisite). Exceptional prospects.

Y To discuss any of the above appointments in detail, please contact Sarah King or Simon Janion on 0171 404 6669 (evenings/ O weekends: 0181 674 3971) or write to us, in complete confidence, at 6 Warwick Court, London WC1R 5DJ (fax 0171 404 0469).

EAGAN J JANION

ALL BOX NUMBER REPLIES SHOULD BE
ADDRESSED TO: BOX No.
C/o The Times Newspapers,
P.O. BOX 3553, Virginia Street, London E1 9GA

BARLOW LYDE & GILBERT

The General Insurance Division of Barlow Lyde & Gilbert is looking to recruit two assistant solicitors with experience in Defendant liability personal injury work to join its expanding team of young lawyers providing a high quality service to the insurance industry.

We are looking to recruit good communicators with a strong academic background and experience in personal injury work to join this highly motivated team.

All applications in writing to Graham Dickinson, Head of General Insurance Division, Barlow Lyde & Gilbert, Beaufort House, 15 St Botolph Street, London, EC3A 7NJ.

PERSONAL INJURY / MED NEG

to £45,000
P Your interest in medical malpractice extend beyond watching E.R. A superb opportunity offering a high quality deal for a major injury award an ambitious personal injury lawyer (2-4 years' PQE) with experience of defendant medical negligence.

CORPORATE

to £60,000
P Are you a top flight assistant (2-4 years' PQE) now contemplating the long road to partnership? Our client is the vibrant City office of a major US firm offering unparalleled variety and responsibility in a small team acting on world class corporate finance transactions.

PRIVATE CLIENT / TAX

to £55,000
P If onshore/offshore trusts and strategic tax planning are your forte and you are c.4 years' PQE this medium sized City firm, enjoying rapid and sustained growth in this area from its growing UK and international client base, offers an exceptional opportunity.

CORPORATE FINANCE

to £48,000
P Celebrated for its as heavyweight corporate expertise this C.50 partner City firm is consistently winning beauty parade against the top 10. A relaxed but productive atmosphere contributes to our clients' success. The successful candidate will be a corporate finance specialist with c.3 years' PQE seeking rapid career advancement.

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YOUNG

to £45,000
P Based at the centre of our Legal Operations in Brentford, your role will be to develop and maintain a compliance programme of the highest standard for our operations across Europe. This will ensure they adhere to all laws, regulations and Corporate policies. In addition, using your knowledge of UK and European law, with special focus on Pharmaceutical affairs, who can champion change, develop ambitious plans accordingly and see them through to completion. What's more, you will be a highly focused individual, an excellent communicator and be able to build strong relationships with both internal and external contacts.

In line with our ambitious strategies for continual business improvement and expansion, we want to appoint a

APPOINTMENT TO THE OFFICE OF
CIRCUIT JUDGE
(NORTHERN CIRCUIT)

The Lord Chancellor invites applications from suitably qualified persons for appointment to the office of Circuit Judge. The successful applicant will be recommended to The Queen for appointment to the Circuit Bench to fill a vacancy which is expected to arise on the Northern Circuit in May 1997.

Applicants must have held a right of audience in the Crown Court or county courts for a period of ten years. They should normally be aged between 45 and 60 on 1 April 1997 and have served in the office of Recorder (not necessarily on the Northern Circuit) for a period of 2 years prior to that date.

The Lord Chancellor will recommend for appointment the candidate who appears to him to be best qualified regardless of ethnic origin, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, political affiliation, religion or (subject to the physical requirements of the office) disability.

An application form, together with a job description, note of the criteria for appointment and further information for applicants, is available by telephoning 0171-210 8983 (an answering machine will operate outside normal office hours) or by writing to:

Circuit Bench Appointments (JAD)

Lord Chancellor's Department
Selborne House
54/60 Victoria Street
LONDON SW1E 6QW

Completed application forms must be returned by noon on Friday 14th March 1997.

Head of Property, London

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See if this sounds familiar. At senior level in a recognised practice and with a good track record in property law under your belt, you're beginning to wonder how much further you can take your current role. Perhaps now is the time to find the firm that can offer you the mix of professional challenge and excellent rewards your skills deserve?

We'd like to introduce you to our client.

A medium sized City practice with an excellent reputation, they have a clear sense of where they're going and what they want to achieve. With a team that's brimming with enthusiasm, ideas and energy, they are now seeking the Head of Department to harness those qualities and take the firm further forward.

A natural leader, you should have a real flair for marketing - you're as well versed in client development as property development. Never short of ideas, you have the credibility and communication skills to get them

across equally effectively to clients, partners and staff. And because you expect the highest standards from your team, you settle for nothing less from yourself.

In return, you can look forward to an excellent rewards package for this senior partnership position that will fully recognise any client following that you may have.

If you would like to receive more information on this position then please contact Stuart Robinson for an informal discussion in the first instance. Telephone: 0171 353 7007 (any time) confidential fax: 0171 353 7008. Reynell Legal Recruitment, 55 Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1AA. E-Mail: Recruitment@Reynell.co.uk

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SB
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SmithKline Beecham is a major force in the world of healthcare. Our global turnover is around £8 billion and growth is set to continue. That's because we have an ambitious growth and investment strategy. One that encompasses international requisitions, new business partnerships and strategic alliances. Of course, such high level, multi-million pound projects demand first-class legal support, provided by proactive and exceptional lawyers.

Based at the centre of our Legal Operations in Brentford, your role will be to develop and maintain a compliance programme of the highest standard for our operations across Europe. This will ensure they adhere to all laws, regulations and Corporate policies. In addition, using your knowledge of UK and European law, with special focus on Pharmaceutical affairs, who can champion change, develop ambitious plans accordingly and see them through to completion.

As you would expect, such a demanding and pivotal role requires a Solicitor or Barrister with at least 2 years' post qualification experience, ideally gained in the Pharmaceutical industry. You will certainly be someone with proven expertise in Regulatory affairs, who can champion change, develop ambitious plans accordingly and see them through to completion. What's more, you will be a highly focused individual, an excellent communicator and be able to build strong relationships with both internal and external contacts.

In line with our ambitious strategies for continual business improvement and expansion, we want to appoint a

lawyer who is highly credible, dynamic and ambitious. That's why we're offering an excellent salary and attractive benefits, which would include relocation costs where appropriate.

What's more you will be part of an organisation that offers outstanding career development opportunities.

If you are interested in this exceptional opportunity, please contact our advising consultants, Gareth Chambers or Geraldine Hetherington, on 0171 405 0151. Evenings and weekends on 0181 663 6680. Alternatively, you can write to them at PO Box 2489, London W1A 2YL, quoting job ref: 1976.

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The Client Speaks Out

Thursday 27 February 1997

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at The Royal Aeronautical Society, Hyde Park Corner, London W1. The core of building and growing a professional service must be the winning and retaining of your clients. Are you doing it as effectively and efficiently as your competitors? What do clients really think? Six senior clients will be telling all. Another five experts will demonstrate actionable points you can implement.

Conference Chair: CHRISTOPHER WHEATCROFT Partner, Head of Middle Market DELOITTE & TOUCHE
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We are looking for lawyers with:

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- an appetite for demanding, often highly complex, work;
- motivation, enthusiasm and confidence;
- a lively and approachable personality; and
- a real understanding of clients and their businesses.

We welcome applications from candidates with 0-5 years' post-qualification experience in the UK or abroad. We will be interviewing in Glasgow on the 17th March and Edinburgh on the 18th March 1997.

You want a career with a firm that:

- is one of the world's leading international practices;
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An opportunity has now arisen for an additional mergers and acquisitions lawyer to join its well established legal department. The successful candidate will advise on a wide range of UK and international acquisitions and will work closely with the company's three business units and professional support teams.

If you wish to pursue a role with excellent prospects for career development and you fill the above criteria contact Elizabeth Williams on 0171 415 2828 or write to Taylor Root, 179 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4DD. Evening/weekends: 0171 231 2974. This assignment is being handled exclusively by Taylor Root and all direct or third party applications will be forwarded to them.

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ANGUILLA AND MONTserrat

Spearheading Law Revision in the Caribbean: Two Key Roles

Anguilla and Montserrat are British Dependent Territories in the Eastern Caribbean. The area is characterised by a fine tropical climate and attractive beaches.

Law Revision Commissioners

The Laws of a number of the United Kingdom's Dependent Territories in the Caribbean are in urgent need of revision. As part of a programme of law revision and law reform, ODA is looking for a Law Revision Commissioner for Anguilla and a Law Revision Commissioner for Montserrat. The Laws of Anguilla were last revised in 1961 and those of Montserrat in 1962. In both positions, you will report to the Attorney General and the keynote of your role will be to produce a computerised revised edition of the Laws. You will have the following main responsibilities:

- preparing an index of legislative changes since the last revision
- the creation of a database of the Laws
- the revision of all primary and subsidiary legislation, with indices and tables, for publication in both electronic and loose leaf/booklet form
- preparing volumes of applicable Caribbean/UK legislation.

QUALIFICATIONS

The position demands a qualified barrister, solicitor or advocate, proficient in English and with at least five years' post qualification experience as a legal draftsman, preferably in government service.

Experience of conducting a law revision will be a significant advantage as will computer literacy and familiarity with desktop publishing. Applicants should either be nationals of Member States of the European Economic Area (EEA) or Commonwealth citizens who have an established right of abode and the right to work in the United Kingdom, but applications which do not meet these conditions will also be welcomed for these particular posts.

TERMS OF APPOINTMENTS

For both positions, you will be on contract to the British Government for 2 years in service to the relevant Government. Salary will be £237,000 p.a. (UK taxable). Additional benefits will normally include variable tax-free allowances, children's education allowances, free accommodation and passages.

Closing date for receipt of completed applications is 24 March 1997.

For further details and application form, please write to Appointments Officer, Ref No AH304/IC/TT, Abercrombie House, Regent's Road, East Kilbride, Glasgow G75 8EA, stating Ref No AH304/IC/IC - Montserrat, for the Montserrat position and AH304/IC/IC - Anguilla for the Anguilla position, clearly on your envelope, or telephone 01355 843352 fax 01355 844099/3621.

ODA is committed to a policy of equal opportunities and applications for these posts are sought from both men and women.



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RACING

Alternatives must be sought to replace outdated levy system

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

FROM their different perspectives, Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum, owner of 350 racehorses worldwide, and Chris Brasher, owner of nine, spoke with one voice in *The Times* yesterday when they criticised the funding of racing in Britain — and articulated the need for fundamental change.

But what form should such change take? Is change even a realistic possibility or just a pipe-dream? In its recent paper *Racing Industry Review: Options For Change*, the British Horseracing Board (BHB) touched on the 'longer term' issue when it asked if the levy system, in which off-course punters pay £50 million a year to racing's coffers via their bets, should be replaced "and if so, by what?"

Far from being a topic for the backburner, many people in racing now believe this is the crucial issue which racing must address — none more so than Lord Donoughue, a director of Towcester racecourse, part owner of the well-named Peers' Folly (still unraced at the age of seven), and Labour's racing spokesman in the House of Lords.

Despite encouraging improvements in the sport, he believes the long-term trends are disturbing. Racecourse attendances and revenues are not improving sufficiently, the profile of customers shows too many old and too few young spectators, betting on racing is losing share to non-levy gambling, and increasingly high-quality horses are racing and breeding abroad.

The Commons home affairs select committee encouraged the Government to consider the long-term replacement of the levy and, in its response, the Government accepted it would be preferable if payments from bookmakers to racing could be made without a statutory framework.

Nearly six years later, nothing has happened except for the BHB to ask in its recent paper whether it should establish a formal group to investigate alternatives to the levy.

"My answer to that is basically yes and smart. But I am not convinced it should be an internal group from racing, even with formal representatives from the betting industry," Lord Donoughue added.

"Perhaps the levy, which eases our short-term problems, is actually part of the long-term problem, leading course managements to act cautiously within the system and not allowing them to compete as a free leisure industry. Does it create an inhibiting dependency? Does it mean we don't attract the most dynamic leisure management? It is striking that racing alone of British sports needs such a legislative regulation, centrally structured operation."

"Obviously it would be fatal to abolish the levy in the short-term; it contributes to racing more than double total gate revenues. I resist the idea of closing racecourses, though if some do not adjust to the new economic and leisure climate that may be unavoidable."

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However, David Pipe, the Jockey Club's director of public affairs, said:

"The key questions for them would be how racing would best survive without the levy and how to prepare for that transition. They should analyse current leisure and racing trends in Britain and abroad; assess potential for more non-race revenues at courses, for more media and sponsorship income, how to stimulate and tap race betting, including the tote. How best can racing sell its product to customers, punters, sponsors and the media — and who owns the product?"

Donoughue believes such an independent group should adopt a seven- to ten-year view if racing was to have a chance to adjust. "If they conclude that there is no alternative to the levy, then at least we will know and proceed accordingly. But it could be a limited and declining future ahead," Sheikh Hamdan, Brasher and many others would agree.



Encore Un Peu, with Richard Dunwoody on board, will miss this season's Grand National because of an injury sustained at Kempton

Jockey Club rejects Dunwoody's complaint

BY OUR RACING STAFF

THE criticism from Richard Dunwoody over the time he had to wait for professional medical assistance after a fall at Kempton on Saturday was yesterday rejected by the Jockey Club. Dunwoody is to consult Michael Caulfield, the chairman of the Jockeys' Association, and the Jockey Club's medical adviser, Dr Michael Turner, over what he sees as a delay in receiving proper attention after taking a heavy fall from See More Business.

However, David Pipe, the Jockey Club's director of public affairs, said:

"There will be no investigation because we are absolutely convinced that the instructions were followed correctly and the paramedics were there in under a minute. As far as we are concerned, everything was done by the book."

Peter McNeile, the clerk of the course at Kempton, also defended the speed with which Dunwoody received medical attention. "I'm not sure what more he could have expected," McNeile said. "The ambulance followed See More Business 70 yards behind and they were surprised to find him within 20 seconds."

Dunwoody was taken to hospital with a hairline fracture of the sternum

he suffered in the fall, but was released yesterday. He claimed that the first person to attend caused him pain rather than helping, but McNeile countered: "He was a Surrey Ambulance crew paramedic and you couldn't ask for anyone better. I am surprised and rather disappointed with what Richard has said."

"I went to the hospital on Saturday night to deliver his car and he had every opportunity to raise it with me, but he didn't. I thought it was all dead and buried so I was surprised to hear his statement."

Responding to the criticism of his complaint, Dunwoody said: "I would

like to emphasise that it was the whole procedure that I would like to discuss with Michael Caulfield and Dr Michael Turner on behalf of all jockeys in the future." In a statement issued via his agent, Robert Parsons, he added: "I apologise if in my injured state I caused offence, but I was unhappy with my initial treatment."

Other news from the Kempton meeting concerned Encore Un Peu. The former Martell Grand National favourite, who finished fifth in the Racing Post Chase, returned lame. The ten-year-old, beaten 14 lengths by Rough Quest at Aintree last year, will miss this season's renewal on April 5.

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THUNDERER

1. 210 Hangover 2. 240 Simpson 3. 310 Jallibreaker

3.40 Bear Claw

4.10 Wild West Wind

4.40 Cliff Wind

Drop Betting: Ballot Rules 8-13

2000-2001: LADY ANASTHIA 2-4; JULIET JONES 7-10; ROBERTY 10-12; ROBERTY 12-14; ROBERTY 13-15; ROBERTY 14-16; ROBERTY 15-17; ROBERTY 16-18; ROBERTY 17-19; ROBERTY 18-20; ROBERTY 19-21; ROBERTY 20-22; ROBERTY 21-23; ROBERTY 22-24; ROBERTY 23-25; ROBERTY 24-26; ROBERTY 25-27; ROBERTY 26-28; ROBERTY 27-29; ROBERTY 28-30; ROBERTY 29-31; ROBERTY 30-32; ROBERTY 31-33; ROBERTY 32-34; ROBERTY 33-35; ROBERTY 34-36; ROBERTY 35-37; ROBERTY 36-38; ROBERTY 37-39; ROBERTY 38-40; ROBERTY 39-41; ROBERTY 40-42; ROBERTY 41-43; ROBERTY 42-44; ROBERTY 43-45; ROBERTY 44-46; ROBERTY 45-47; ROBERTY 46-48; ROBERTY 47-49; ROBERTY 48-50; ROBERTY 49-51; ROBERTY 50-52; ROBERTY 51-53; ROBERTY 52-54; ROBERTY 53-55; ROBERTY 54-56; ROBERTY 55-57; ROBERTY 56-58; ROBERTY 57-59; ROBERTY 58-60; ROBERTY 59-61; ROBERTY 60-62; ROBERTY 61-63; ROBERTY 62-64; ROBERTY 63-65; ROBERTY 64-66; ROBERTY 65-67; ROBERTY 66-68; ROBERTY 67-69; ROBERTY 68-70; ROBERTY 69-71; ROBERTY 70-72; ROBERTY 71-73; ROBERTY 72-74; ROBERTY 73-75; ROBERTY 74-76; 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RUGBY UNION

Sale enjoy home comfort as they chase historic win

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

IF SALE are to reach the final of the Pilkington Cup for the first time, they will have to inflict yet another defeat upon Harlequins. But having done so twice in the league this season, they will fancy their chances of an appearance at Twickenham after Phil de Glanville, the England captain, drew their name first from the hat yesterday, giving them home advantage in the semi-finals on March 29.

Not that John Mitchell, the Sale player-coach, will make any such assumption. He is from the hard school of New Zealand realism. "Our two wins against Harlequins will count for nothing on this occasion," Mitchell said. "They will have a team chock-full of internationals, more used to the environment they will encounter, while our difficulty will be the sheer size of the occasion."

Harlequins went into the quarter-finals last weekend as the bookmakers' favourites, a dubious privilege that has now passed to Leicester. They must make the familiar trip to Kingsholm to play Gloucester, having already travelled twice in this competition to overcome substantial opponents in Bath, the holders, and Newcastle, though it is planned in future seasons, given Rugby Football Union approval, to hold the semi-finals on neutral grounds, as in Wales.

Barbarians remain in Leicester hearts

BY DAVID HANDS

THOUGH half their regular team will be missing tonight, Leicester will make positive attempts to shore up their longstanding fixture with the Barbarians. League commitments forced the postponement from the normal Christmas date and representative calls have cost Leicester eight players, but they hope the fixture will not decline in prestige.

The game at Welford Road has long been the jewel in the Barbarians' crown, but league rugby and now professionalism have hurt the guest club. However, Leicester's strong membership looks forward to its annual holiday points spree and Peter Wheeler, the chief executive, is optimistic that future structured seasons will make allowance for this traditional game.

There are local interests who would be happy to sponsor the game, to make sure that the Barbarians were

The prospect of a Harlequins-Leicester final remains strong (the two met in the 1993 final) but many neutrals, not to mention the sponsors from their northwest stronghold, would welcome the appearance of a fresh name in Sale. Who is to say they will not get it?

Sale put the first spoke into Harlequins' league wheels at the end of October when two tries from Dewi Morris contributed to a 24-13 victory at Heywood Road; they followed that earlier this month with a 31-30 win at the Stoop Memorial Ground, an away success subsequently enhanced by the

key ingredients in the club's success but we still need to find more consistency.

The major aspiration is to make the top four (in the league) and we still have games to catch up and clubs like Bath and Leicester to play. But the attitude of the players has been great; they have become more disciplined, mentally disciplined — they don't realise yet what they can become. We are still some months away from some of the goals I have set physically but we have come a long way in a short time."

The meeting between Gloucester and Leicester will be the second in eight days, since Leicester are also due at Kingsholm on a league match on March 22. That may be reminiscent of 1990, when Leicester lost a home league game with Bath and, eight days later, knocked Bath out of the cup, but it will be an uncomfortable meeting with the 20-1 outsiders.

Whatever their league travails, Gloucester brought the best out of Bath in the semi-finals last season. The ground will be packed to the rafters and the whole atmosphere will be tremendous," Richard Hill, the Gloucester director of rugby, said.

"To the outside world Gloucester will be seen as the underdogs but that will suit the lads. Most people will see this as a simple passage through to the final for Leicester, but we should not be underestimated. We have not played well recently but we are going to hit top form at some stage — this would be a good time to do it."

Swansea, having knocked Pontypridd, the holders, out of the Swalec Cup, must now travel to Neath in the quarter-finals on March 22. They took the road to winning the trophy in 1995 and still hope for a league and cup double with which to reward Mike Ruddock, their coach, who is considering a position with Leinster in Dublin.

Llanelli, drawn against second-division Pontypool, meet the Welsh Rugby Union today to discuss the terms of a loan from the union, having cut the contracts of all their players who will become free agents at the end of this season.

"I think there is a mutual understanding of the problems," Stuart Gallacher, the Llanelli chairman, said. "It is very difficult but the players have agreed to what was on offer and we will discuss their contracts again at the end of the season."

RHODES: Quarter-finalists Cardiff v South Wales Police; Elbow Vale v Treorchy or Bridgend; Llanelli v Pontypridd; Neath v Swansea.

□ Vince Wright

DRAW

SEMI-FINALS:
Gloucester v Leicester
Sale v Harlequins
Matches to be played on March 29

defeat of Northampton in the cup on Saturday.

That game removed Nick Beal, the Northampton full back, from the A internationals and France on Friday because of a knee injury; rubbing salt into his wound will be the fact that Jim Mallinder, Sale's captain, will replace him.

"Jim is a wonderful guy to work with," Mitchell, formerly the Waikato No 8 and captain, said. "He and Steve Diamond [Sale's hooker] are

able to field an attractive team." Wheeler said, "even if that meant bringing players and their families from the Barbarians. League commitments forced the postponement from the normal Christmas date and representative calls have cost Leicester eight players, but they hope the fixture will not decline in prestige.

François Pienaar, who damaged his hamstring playing for Saracens on Sunday, had withdrawn from the Barbarian XV and his place goes to Mark Richardson, from Aspatria. Federico Méndez, who is now the Bath hooker, leads a strong Argentine contingent that also includes Lisandro Arribalzaga, the Argentine captain.

□ Vince Wright

BOWLS

England omit former champions

WENDY LINE, the 1986 Commonwealth Games champion, who won the silver medal in the world outdoor singles championship at Royal Leamington Spa last summer, has been left out of the England women's team for the Atlantic Rim Games in Llandrindod in August (David Rhys Jones writes).

The even more surprising omission of Norma Shaw, the 1985 world champion, denies her the chance to defend the Atlantic title she won in South Africa two years ago, but the inclusion of Katherine Hawes, 26, suggests that the selectors have decided to go for younger players.

Mary Price, 53, who won the national outdoor singles title for the second time last September, beating Hawes in the final, has her first chance to challenge for a significant international singles title, having previously been employed at the back end of England's triples and fours.

Price showed her versatility last month when she partnered John Bell to the Merrylands International mixed pairs title in Sydney. With Price engaged in singles and pairs, Shirley Page, who made her debut as an international skip in the series last year, will skip in triples and fours. Jean Baker and Gill Fitzgerald, who played in the world championships, have retained their places.

ENGLAND: Singles, M Price (Bude), Mary Price (Bude) and Fiona Trippett; J Baker (Bathurst), G Fitzgerald (Northants), S Page (Kens). Fouriers Hawes, Baker, Fitzgerald, Page.

Saturday March 1, 15 Portsmouth v Shrewsbury X 34 Darlington v Brighton X
16 Cottenham v Oldham X 35 Fulham v Chester
17 Gloucester v Gloucester X 36 Hartpury v Gloucester X
18 Warrington v Chester X 37 Gloucester v Gloucester X
19 Wolves v Ipswich X 38 Leyton v Barnet X
20 Bradford v Sunderland X 39 Merstham v Canterbury X

SECOND DIVISION

1 Derby v Chelsea X 41 Ayr v Rangers X
3 Bolton v Arsenal X 42 Celtic v Hearts X
4 Luton v Coventry X 43 Dundee v Dunfermline X
5 Man Utd v Coventry X 44 Hibernian v Motherwell X
6 Newcastle v Sutton X 45 Raith v Kilmarnock X
7 Shrewsbury v Middlesbrough X 46 Plymouth v Blackpool X
8 Sheffield v Middlesbrough X 47 Plymouth v Blackpool X
9 Wimborne v Leicester X 48 East Fife v Dundee X
10 Bradford v Man City X 49 Fylde v Wimborne X
11 Coventry v Birming X 50 Hartlepool v Blackpool X
12 Oldham v C Palace X 51 Carlisle v Lincoln X
13 Port Vale v Reading X 52 St Johnstone v Clydebank X

THIRD DIVISION

1 Newcastle, Northumbria, Queens Park Rangers, Port Vale, Shrewsbury, Bristol Rovers, Peterborough, Sutton, Rotherham, Chester, Bristol, St Johnstone, Fylde, Hartlepool, Rotherham, Morton.

BEST DRAWNS: Leeds, Oxford, Swindon, Port Vale, Rotherham, Hartlepool, Chester, Bristol, Rotherham, Sutton, Northampton, Darwen, Oxford, Swindon, Bristol Rovers.

□ Vince Wright

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Who was that moon-booted ice tucker man?

The neurotic reaction is unavoidable. A series called *Ray Mears's World of Survival* (5BC2)? Well, it sends a shiver of anxiety through the body. Who is Ray Mears? Should I know who he is? Does everybody except me know who he is? "He was in *Tracks*" comes the answer. "He is a survival expert. He can skin rabbits and stuff like that." It's just so worrying when people get their names in titles and they're not Alec Guinness or Jeremy Clarkson. Calling this series *Ray Mears's World of Survival* is a bullish challenge; it's the equivalent of a first novel appearing straight on the "bestseller" shelf in a bookshop, so that the consumer is caught on the back foot. "How on earth," one asks, rubbing one's head, "did this famed Ray Mears pass me by?"

Actually, you wouldn't want to miss this series. It fills the gap left by *Desert Island Discs* ever since

Sue Lawley stopped even feigning interest in the question "could you build a shelter"? Up in the frozen Arctic for the first instalment, Mears joined various Inuits for igloo-construction lessons; he also watched them hunt, fish, catch seals, and make fluffy bonnets from the fur of caribou. The igloo-building revealed an unexpected drawback for people of a sensitive disposition: ice blocks make the same sound as polystyrene — squeak, squeak, squeak. This is bad news for any Arctic dweller whose nerve-ends revolt at the sound of fingernail on blackboard. "No, I'll be all right," they call from the dog sleds, "I've got a blanket here somewhere!"

The bad news for Mears himself was that, encased head to toe in his caribou ensemble, he was still as unknown by the end of the programme as at the beginning. He was just a big bloke in moon boots, with snow on his moustache

and a cool head in emergencies. But I liked him, especially when he explained that survival depended on looking into the wilderness and not just at it. Incidentally, the way to extract drinking water from an Arctic landscape turned out to be quite complicated: lighting a little fire under special glacial ice, then filtering it through a descending series of pools. The natural instinct just to pack snow in your mouth and suck like crazy was so stupid, apparently, it didn't even rate a mention.

At midnight on Channel 4, a discussion programme called *For the Love of...* considered the startling proposition (first put forward in a movie called *Capricorn One*, surely) that the Nasa Moon landings in 1969 were faked up in telly studios. Six earnest people — a loose affiliation, at a guess — explained their suspicions of conspiracy to a

languid, tousle-haired young journalist called Jon Ronson, who lounged in an armchair and occasionally lit cigarettes. Ronson was so laid-back that at first the show threatened to be like a classic paranoid psychiatrist scenario, with the guests saying "Nobody listens to us" and Ronson rubbing his eyes and saying "Huh?" But it turned out to be a fascinating hour of telly. Ronson

allowed his guests to speak, and they warmed up. They showed the famous Moon-surface photos of the astronauts and explained the impossible directional lighting, unobtainable on the Moon. Given enough rope, of course, all conspiracy theorists hang themselves, by claiming that the Government is sending messages to ET through *Noel's House Party* — and that if you count the spots on Mister Blobby, they spell "I'm John Lennon, let me out". Well, so it proved on *For the Love of...* But the photo evidence was still a valid puzzle. As Ronson put it: "This is all very persuasive, but at the same time... difficult to take."

It's sad to think that rational thought is not natural to humans because it has to be instilled by training (and generally isn't). Hearing these people argue that the script of *Independence Day* contains "messages" makes you wonder whether at least *The*

Derby City General Hospital bed — an idea with precisely the same potential for disappointment as the old one-tee. True, he made a rather beautiful film, with delicately sketched incidental characters. But, I don't know, that damn metal bed never came alive, somehow. Not even when its castors were replaced.

I assume the repeated reference to parliamentary debate was significant (tellyes on the wards showed NHS wrangles in the House of Commons). But the political agenda of this film was too subtle for me. It seemed to be showing a lot of patients well cared for, in a pleasant environment, and getting better. Inconsequential was the word for it. But meanwhile a long, bloody gall bladder was hooked out of someone's body in precisely the same way that an Inuit hooks a seal through the ice. A spooky coincidence, eh? Or was it some sort of... message?

REVIEW

Lynne
Truss



BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (9729) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (7) (94187) 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (7) (8404019) 9.20 Style Challenge (1134458) 9.45 Kilroy (1492922) 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (96187) 11.00 News (7) and weather (6078125) 11.05 The Useful Show (3042274) 11.35 Change That (5853903) 12.00 News (7) (6070651) 12.05pm The Alphabet Game (5863019) 12.30 Going for a Song (797854) 12.55 The Weather Show (3498180) 1.00 One O'Clock News (7) and weather (97274) 1.30 Regional News (9886583) 1.40 Neighbours (7) (2057274) 2.00 Snowy River (8328254) 2.50 As Time Goes By (7) (5476880) 3.20 Noble Castles (1606057) 3.30 Playdays (1386564) 3.50 Casper Classics (2481123) 3.55 Hubbub (7160727) 4.10 Prince of Atlantis (9460038) 4.35 The Mask (6954632) 5.00 Newsround (7) (774800) 5.10 Grange Hill (1101274) 5.35 Neighbours (7) (1390903) 6.00 Six O'Clock News (7) and weather (598) 6.30 Regional News (390) 7.00 Holiday India, a winter break in Portugal, a jeep safari in southwest Turkey, and Bath (2322) 7.30 EastEnders Tensions rise to boiling point behind the bar in the Vic (7) (613) 8.00 Children's Hospital: The staff treat a boy who fell from a first-floor window and a younger who was knocked down by a car (1670) 8.30 899 Lifesavers (7477) 8.50 Nine O'Clock News (7) and weather (3019) 9.30 One Foot in the Grave Victor and Margaret invite Mrs Worboys to stay at their house until her flooded flat dries out (7783) WALES: 6.30 Week in WeekOut (7783) 10.00 One Foot in the Grave (54406) 10.30 Inside Story (228816) 11.20 FILM: Obsessed (9368001) 12.50 Weather (5897084) 10.00 Inside Story (7) (774800) 10.30 Grange Hill (1101274) 5.35 Neighbours (7) (1390903) 6.00 Six O'Clock News (7) and weather (598) 6.30 Regional News (390) 7.00 Holiday India, a winter break in Portugal, a jeep safari in southwest Turkey, and Bath (2322) 7.30 EastEnders Tensions rise to boiling point behind the bar in the Vic (7) (613) 8.00 Children's Hospital: The staff treat a boy who fell from a first-floor 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